

aar joins
racers
dwagon

THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,753

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

2004
News from
Portillo's
Britain
PAGE 20BEST FOR
BOOKSJeanette Winterson
on the Tarot
PLUS: Sir Hardy Amies,
John Gray, Anthony Storr

PAGES 40, 41

ROMANTIC
SEQUELJackie Collins,
the Princess
and what
happens next

PAGE 5

BEST FOR
JOBSThe Times
Jobs

WANTED	
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	80K
<input type="checkbox"/> Manager	60K
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	50K
<input type="checkbox"/> Designer	48K

APPOINTMENTS, 30 PAGES

SECTION 3

Maths and grammar to be checked

Soft options at A level to be curbed

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT



GILLIAN SHEPHARD will today order a return to rigorous testing of basic grammar and arithmetic at A level, and curb schools' ability to shop around for soft-option courses. The Education Secretary, alarmed at a decline in literacy among even the brightest English A-level students over the past 20 years, wants all courses to place greater emphasis on spelling, syntax and writing skills.

Mrs Shephard plans a wide range of measures to ensure that students master both the essential techniques and the facts of their subject so that A levels remain the "gold standard" after almost a decade of soaring pass-rates.

Her plans will be announced as the most authoritative review of A levels and GCSEs — comparing standards in English, chemistry and mathematics papers since 1975 — is published. The report will show that the teaching of facts and formulas has been sacrificed to creativity and a broader knowledge.

In response, Mrs Shephard will ask examiners to limit the number of "open-book" test papers, which allow students to take texts into the examination hall. The practice of allowing science candidates to use formula sheets and high-performance calculators will also be restricted, because they are believed to be eroding problem-solving skills. English GCSE will concentrate more on grammar and comprehension.

Mrs Shephard also wants "substantial reductions" in the

texts "because if you do not know the text you will spend all your time looking through and trying to find quotations. The content of A levels has moved over 20 years, but we have tried to ensure standards have stayed the same."

He added: "There are only four boards for English at GCSE and A level which compares with 24 just ten years ago, and the content is very tightly controlled. If you want to continue the consistency idea, you would have only one university but there are more than 100 offering thousands of different courses".

The comparison of GCSE and A level standards over the past 20 years will show how marks given for showing a thorough knowledge of the basics have gradually reduced. Pupils are now required to have a wider range of knowledge in less depth.

This is not generally interpreted as a fall in standards by the report's authors — the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Ofsted, the school inspection agency. They believe that the main change has been the emphasis on understanding and creativity at the expense of learning facts.

However, in mathematics, the report will say that a lower level of achievement is now needed for the same grades. Traditional skills such as algebra and problem-solving have declined, but expertise in other areas, such as statistics and probability, is improving.

Leading article, page 21

Labour out to shine on Costa del Sol

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A WHITEWASHED, photogenic town on Spain's Costa del Sol is the latest outpost of the whitewashed, photogenic Labour party.

Nerja (population 15,000) boasts the presence of nearly 1,000 Britons, all soon able to take part in local elections under a new European Union agreement. With this juicy British vote-bank in mind, and under a prospective local tie-up with the Spanish Socialist party, moves are afoot to field Labour candidates at Nerja's municipal elections.

New Labour, of course, has its work cut out in Spain. The Tory outfit for expatriates, Conservatives Abroad, has made "British" Spain its own fiefdom. But party workers in Nerja are undaunted, showing an oomph in the face of adversity of which Walworth Road should be proud.

Dorothy Price, a Labour activist who has lived in the Nerja area for "fine happy years", said: "Several natural

erts, a retired manager for Shell who left Morecambe 13 years ago to live in the Costa del Sol, said: "We live together with the Spaniards and try to speak their language. Our concerns are the same as theirs." Asked if he was enthusiastic about Labour councillors in Nerja, and a prospective "Costa del Stakeholders", he retreated cautiously. "I'm too old to get involved in politics, really." Mr Roberts is 73.

Mrs Price, however, is more energetic. "We foreigners want a voice. We have concerns here like rates, roads, lighting on streets. But the real thing is, we live here. So we want to vote and take part in the running of our town."

Lin Golding, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, is the star turn of Mrs Price's Labour winter season. She comes to Nerja next month to explain her leader's message — new Labour, new country, and of course new Nerja.

Food poison death toll now seven

A SEVENTH person died yesterday in the Scottish food poisoning outbreak as Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, opened the way for a fatal accident inquiry into the handling of the case.

The man who died was 74 and came from Wishaw. He had attended a pensioners' party on November 17 and was admitted to hospital four days later.

Strathclyde Police are continuing to investigate allegations that the butcher at the centre of the outbreak, John M. Barr and Son, of Wishaw, sold meat for a buffet at an 18th birthday party a day after they had been told to remove all cooked meats from sale.

The total number of cases is now thought to be more than 300, of which 26 are in Lanarkshire.

Anglers turn to guns for illegal cull of cormorants

BY NICK NUTTALL,
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENTTHESE
BIRDS
MUST
BE
KILLED

Blunt message from the Angling Times

MILITANT anglers are defying the law by shooting and poisoning cormorants, a protected species which they say is devastating their sport.

The birds, whose numbers have increased in recent years to around 7,200 pairs, may be shot only under licence. But squads of marksmen — some apparently employed by landowners with well-stocked rivers or lakes — are tackling "the black plague" by shooting up to 52 birds in three-hour culls. Licensed shooters are allowed to kill six a season.

One lake owner in southern England told *The Times* yesterday: "Cormorants are a weed and need to be taken out."

Official angling organisations, which want the bird's protection to be lifted so that it can be shot on sight like crows, have nevertheless condemned the shooting, fearing that members could become the target of radical animal rights groups. Derek Rose, chairman of the National Federation of Anglers fisheries committee, said: "From a fisheries point of view the only good cormorant is a dead one... and we understand the frustration of people. But we cannot condone anyone breaking the law."

The existence of cormorant hit squads was disclosed in yesterday's *Angling Times*, which backs the action. In a report headlined "These Birds Must Be Killed", the magazine showed a photograph of a masked man next to four dead birds.

Anglers say the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is so powerful that it has won the ear of government at the expense of fisherman and fish stocks. But Robin Wynde of

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21



A marksman with some of his cormorant kill. The birds are a protected species

Ministers back Japanese PoWs

Ministers have backed calls for some of Japan's biggest firms to pay compensation to thousands of British prisoners of war. Campaigners are pressing for payments of £13,500 for each of the 10,000 survivors. Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, insisted that Britain had not "closed the book" on the campaign

Page 2

Teacher 'fought machete attacker'

A court was told yesterday of the bravery of a nursery teacher who shepherded her children to safety while a machete-wielding man attacked the class as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic. Horrett Campbell denies seven charges of attempted murder

Page 3

Buying The Times overseas

AUSTRIA Sch 40; Belgium F 1.75; Canada C 1.50; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.00; Netherlands F 4.50; Italy L 500; Luxembourg G 600; Madeira Esc 350; Malta L 20.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Pts 225; Sweden Kr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.00; USA \$3.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



49
9 770140 046343
TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24, 48

Labour out to shine on Costa del Sol

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A WHITEWASHED, photogenic town on Spain's Costa del Sol is the latest outpost of the whitewashed, photogenic Labour party.

Nerja (population 15,000) boasts the presence of nearly 1,000 Britons, all soon able to take part in local elections under a new European Union agreement. With this juicy British vote-bank in mind, and under a prospective local tie-up with the Spanish Socialist party, moves are afoot to field Labour candidates at Nerja's municipal elections.

New Labour, of course, has its work cut out in Spain. The Tory outfit for expatriates, Conservatives Abroad, has made "British" Spain its own fiefdom. But party workers in Nerja are undaunted, showing an oomph in the face of adversity of which Walworth Road should be proud.

Dorothy Price, a Labour activist who has lived in the Nerja area for "fine happy years", said: "Several natural

erts, a retired manager for Shell who left Morecambe 13 years ago to live in the Costa del Sol, said: "We live together with the Spaniards and try to speak their language. Our concerns are the same as theirs." Asked if he was enthusiastic about Labour councillors in Nerja, and a prospective "Costa del Stakeholders", he retreated cautiously. "I'm too old to get involved in politics, really." Mr Roberts is 73.

Mrs Price, however, is more energetic. "We foreigners want a voice. We have concerns here like rates, roads, lighting on streets. But the real thing is, we live here. So we want to vote and take part in the running of our town."

Lin Golding, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, is the star turn of Mrs Price's Labour winter season. She comes to Nerja next month to explain her leader's message — new Labour, new country, and of course new Nerja.

Food poison death toll now seven

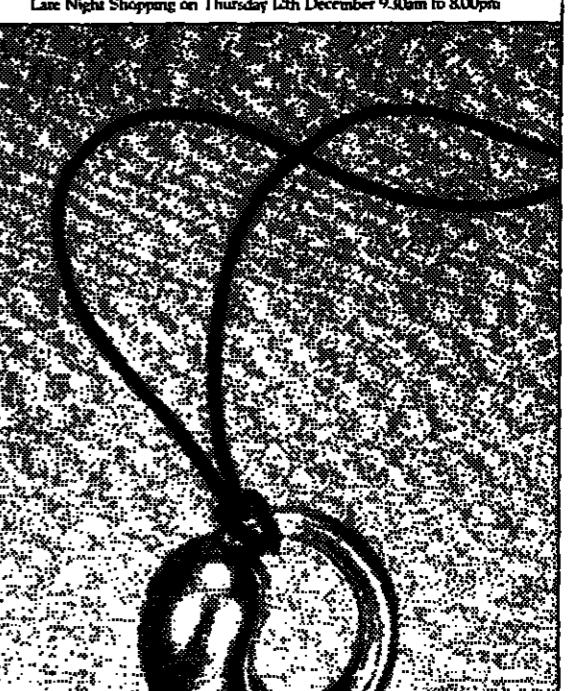
A SEVENTH person died yesterday in the Scottish food poisoning outbreak as Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, opened the way for a fatal accident inquiry into the handling of the case.

The man who died was 74 and came from Wishaw. He had attended a pensioners' party on November 17 and was admitted to hospital four days later.

Strathclyde Police are continuing to investigate allegations that the butcher at the centre of the outbreak, John M. Barr and Son, of Wishaw, sold meat for a buffet at an 18th birthday party a day after they had been told to remove all cooked meats from sale.

The total number of cases is now thought to be more than 300, of which 26 are in Lanarkshire.

Christmas Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 6.00pm Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm
Last Night Shopping on Thursday 12th December 9.30am to 8.00pm



Elsa Peretti Eternal Circle

"Eternal Circle" pendant by Elsa Peretti.
In sterling silver on a 30" black silk cord £145.
Also available in 18ct gold £885.

TIFFANY & CO.

Since 1837

LONDON 23 OLD BOND STREET W1
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0171-499-7785

and another, by the window, for her miniature Maltese, Dom Perignon.

Shaken by an early argument with a stewardess over where to stow the dolly used to carry the dog's cage, Mrs Becker drank a cocktail and dozed off with the help of a sleeping pill, court papers show. She was woken high over the Mid-West to be told Dom Perignon had escaped. Pre-trial affidavits conflict on who was to blame but agree the widow lost her temper

when told to lock the dog back into its cage and place it under a \$2,000 (about £1,200) seal. Offered a glass of conciliatory champagne, she reportedly denounced the flight crew as "animal haters". When told the captain would have to be summoned, she told staff what the captain might do.

Captain Edwin Frost strolled aft hoping to defuse the row. Instead he found Mrs Becker "out of control", with Dom Perignon still at large and

"threatening to bite". Asking a stewardess to check that he was not restricting his passenger's blood supply, he bound Mrs Becker's hands behind her back with Dom Perignon's leash and herded her into an adjoining seat.

Mrs Becker claims the captain bruised her from head to toe, ripped one earring from her ear and broke several of her fingernails. A trial is scheduled for next August.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG 20

ARTS 37-39
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 22

SPORT 42-46, 48
TRAVEL NEWS 34, 35
LAW REPORT 36

49
1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1

When open debate is the way to keep a passionate secret safe



Mrs Peacock opposed "partial birth abortion"

Sometimes it seems that one way to keep an argument secret is to broadcast it in Parliament, for the time is gone when every good Commons exchange would find its way into the next day's papers. Few were in the press gallery yesterday to hear a short debate between the Yorkshire Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (C. Batley & Spen) and the Welsh Mrs Ann Clwyd (Lab., Cynon Valley); and fewer to report it.

Yet the exchange, lasting 20 minutes, touched the most profound concerns, was courteous and unpartisan on both sides and exposed a memorable disagreement in principle between two rational humans. Those 20 minutes were rivet-

ing. But gruesome. The subject was what Mrs Peacock called "partial birth abortion" and Mrs Clwyd called "intact dilation and evacuation". Mrs Peacock was moving a "Ten Minute Rule Bill" — a notional introduction of a Bill for whose enactment there is no parliamentary time, but whose airing offers a chance for discussion. Mrs Peacock's Bill, which Mrs Clwyd opposed, banned this type of abortion in Britain. The squeamish should stop here. Mrs Peacock explained that "partial birth abortion," common in the US, involved the evacuation and then crushing of the fetus's skull, before extraction, usually beyond 20 weeks' pregnancy. She believed the

fetus could suffer pain before death. The procedure was used in some cases where a genetic disorder had been diagnosed late, but had been in cases which were "elective" (by choice). Its use in Britain was uncharted, but it was not unlawful — and should be, she thought. She added that there were MPs who had joined the campaign against veal crates but were less interested "in protecting the young of their own kind" — a crusade she called "pro-life" and Mrs Clwyd later called "anti-

choice". I recalled that Mrs Clwyd, who believes the fetus may be sacrificed to the mother's needs, has founded a group called Peace and Animal Welfare, to oppose cruel testing on animals. I also recalled that Mrs Peacock, who believes human life is sacred, supports the death penalty and advocates the televised flogging of criminals. The composition of what we might call typical "amid-clusters" in the minds of MPs is intriguing. Mrs Peacock spoke calmly but with passion.

The former Education Secretary John Patten sat close by. He comes rarely to the Chamber now, and nodded earnestly as she spoke. Mrs Clwyd, who was barracked by some of the male anti-abortion lobby, but not by the women, spoke with similar control and the same underlying fierce feeling. She said this method of abortion was not used in Britain so a prohibition was unnecessary. She suspected Mrs Peacock was trying to reopen the whole debate about the 1967 Abortion Act, in the hope of reversing it. Besides, she thought, the choice between methods of abortion should be left to "clinical judgment".

For Mrs Peacock it might be said that a graphic description of any method of abortion would be gruesome, and one suspected it was all abortion, not just this method, she questioned: Describing a technique of whose use in Britain she offered no evidence was arguably disingenuous. But principle motivated her.

Mrs Clwyd's sincerity was equally clear, but one suspected that her rejection of the Bill on the grounds that the practice was non-existent here was also disingenuous. If it had been in common use, Mrs Clwyd would still have opposed the Bill.

Each

side had supporters, but time was up. These debates hardly reach the news. It is to be hoped people know they happen.



Mrs Clwyd: said women had the right to choose

Ministers want top Japanese firms to compensate PoWs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND DAVID WATTS

THE Government last night took the risk of upsetting Japanese industry by suggesting that Japan's wealthiest companies should pay compensation to thousands of British prisoners of war.

Ministers backed calls for some of Japan's biggest firms, including those already in Britain and would-be investors, to contribute to the 10,000 survivors who suffered torture and brutality in Japanese death camps during the last war.

Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, insisted that Britain had "not closed the book" on the campaign to obtain compensation from Japan.

Heavy cross-party pressure in the Commons prompted Mr Hanley to agree with MPs' calls for Japanese firms to contribute towards a compensation fund for those who were used as slave labour for Japanese companies. Mr Hanley told the Commons: "I would willingly encourage any new initiative to encourage Japanese companies to help in this way." Campaigners are pressing for payments of £13,500 for each of the 10,000 survivors.

However, the renewed pressure comes less than two years

after John Major wrote to the Japanese Prime Minister to register concern after Japanese industry refused to contribute towards a charitable foundation to help former PoWs. The Foreign Office abandoned the scheme after Sir Kit McMahon, former deputy governor of the Bank of England, travelled to Japan to urge business support.

Senior Government figures admitted last night that the prospect of widespread support was unlikely but emphasised that Mr Major was taking a keen interest in the issue. Initial reaction from Japanese companies indicated that they did not consider themselves responsible for the war-time actions of firms that no longer exist.

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, joined calls for a renewed campaign by the Government, saying that the Japanese had not gone far enough to repair past damage. The Prime Minister doesn't regard it as enough. There has been some progress but I don't feel that this has been enough. It needs to be followed by more substantial action.

I know the difficulties of finding a way. But as a strong friend and supporter of modern Japan, I believe the search, and it now is an urgent search, for a way for more substantial action needs to continue. There is this bar from the past, a past that is terrible beyond telling for the people who lived through it.

Mr Hanley acknowledged that the Government was constrained in its campaign by the 1951 Treaty of San Francisco which formally brought peace and under which the Japanese government paid compensation to British PoWs. Each former PoW was paid £7.25 — almost £1,000 today — plus a further £3 for those who worked on the Burma Railway, and officials say that any re-opening of the compensation debate would initiate a flood of claims from literally millions of Chinese, Koreans and Taiwanese. Like their Korean and Chinese counterparts Britons were compelled to work in coal mines and shipyards throughout the then Japanese empire.

Almost all the Japanese companies now trading in Britain were formed post-war and argue that they are making a bigger contribution by creating employment.

I know the difficulties of finding a way. But as a strong friend and supporter of modern Japan, I believe the search, and it now is an urgent search, for a way for more substantial action needs to continue. There is this bar from the past, a past that is terrible beyond telling for the people who lived through it.



British soldiers freed from camps in Burma in May 1945

Any light makes hands work.



At least it does with the Citizen Eco-Drive. Powered by light, just a few minutes is enough to make it run and run. A few hours keeps it going for up to six months. So you'll never need to change the battery. A performance you'd expect from Citizen, the first to bring the world this technology. Prices from £79.50. Model illustrated £125. 3 year guarantee. For a brochure and your nearest stockist, call 01753 897210.

CITIZEN Eco-Drive

Howard urges applicants to declare Masonic links

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Home Secretary has asked potential members of the new Criminal Cases Review Authority to declare whether they are Freemasons.

The move reflects government embarrassment earlier this year when it was disclosed that Sir Frederick Crawford, the chairman of the new authority, was a Royal Arch Freemason.

The practice is almost certain to be applied to other sensitive appointments in future. The Home Office's shift in policy was disclosed yesterday during a hearing of the Commons' public services committee.

Last night the Home Office confirmed that it had asked applicants to identify any conflicts of interest that could arise with membership of the new authority. Mr Howard wants to appoint a further 11 members and recruit a staff of 60 for the new body to review miscarriages of justice. It will be set up in the new year.

A note sent to applicants before they completed their forms reads: "It is essential that in discharging its responsibilities the commission should have the full confidence of the public. According-

ly, all those who are being considered for appointment to the commission are asked to indicate whether there is anything in their background or previous experience, professional or personal (including membership of the Freemasons or any similar organisation), which, were it to become known, might affect public confidence in their ability to carry out their tasks as a member of the commission."

The change was disclosed by John Gammie, Labour MP for Leeds South and Morley. He asked Sir Len Peacock, the Public Appointments Commissioner, giving evidence before the committee yesterday, to give his views on such vetting. Sir Len, a former

chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, said he did not believe Freemasons should be disqualified from public office, but said it was important to know about such links to ensure there were no conflicts of interest.

His views complement the Home Office note, which states: "The making of such a declaration will not in itself be a bar to appointment. This is simply information which ministers will wish to be aware of when considering candidates." He said he had discussed the matter with Richard Wilson, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, after the controversy over Sir Frederick's appointment.

Sir Len said he did not believe, however, that conflicts of interest should be listed in any formalised way. It was equally important, for example, to know if they were any potential conflicts between the role of a husband and wife.

The Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee is to examine the extent of Freemasonry in the police and the judiciary in the new year.

Sir Len also told MPs that he intended to study appointments in which ministers recommended individuals, to ensure they were not getting preferential consideration.

Secret cormorant cull

Continued from page 1
the RSPB disputed claims that the cormorant was devastating fish stocks. He said the society would consider its position when a three-year study of the birds ends in 1998. The ministry-funded study is also looking at ways of scaring off cormorants with birds or prey or laser guns that shine beams of light.

Julian Petter, the broadcaster who is both president of the RSPB and an angler, condemned the *Angling Times*, saying the cormorant had the right to share the resources of Britain's rivers and lakes. "What they have published is absolutely disgraceful. They really should not encourage people to break the law. You have to be used to the idea that you share the

river with a lot of other animals."

Mr Petter was backed by Alan Clark, the former defence minister who referred in his *Diaries* to his sadness at having to shoot a heron. "The cormorant is a protected bird," he said. "You can't shoot a protected bird to make your hobby more congenial. Their motives are purely to protect their status of predator against others. They feel someone like the cormorant doing it better than they do should not be allowed to."

But Richard Lee, news editor of the magazine, defended its stance, saying: "So what? It's time to take the gloves off to save our sport. Cormorants do devastate fisheries. They are wiping out our water after water."

Christmas Appeal

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal) for £_____

Or, please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard account

Expiry date / /

Today's date / /

Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE No. _____

POSTCODE _____

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone 0171-403 4039, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Evelina Appeal Office, Henriette Raphael House, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, SE1 9RT

Reg. Charity No. 254983

I would like my gift to help Research Care Equipment or the General Appeal Fund (tick as appropriate).

Tick here if you would like a receipt.



Police
from c

Quiz team uni

Weapon used to wound infant schoolchildren was inscribed with references to the Devil

Machete attacker 'likened himself to mass killers'

By RICHARD DUCE

A MACHETE-WIELDING attacker likened himself to the killers Thomas Hamilton and Michael Bryant after he ran amok in a class of nursery children as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic, a jury was told yesterday.

Horrett Campbell, 33, injured three children and four adults as he slashed out with the two-foot long blade on which he had inscribed '666 marks the devil'.

For the bravery of nursery teacher Lisa Potts, 21, who helped terrified children get back inside school while being attacked by Campbell, this tragedy could have been so much worse", Richard Wakerley, QC, for the prosecution, told Stafford Crown Court.

Campbell, who lived in a tower block overlooking St Luke's infant school in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, denies seven charges of attempted murder. He has admitted six charges of causing grievous bodily harm and one of attempted grievous

bodily harm. Mr Wakerley said that police who searched Campbell's flat found two newspaper cuttings on his bedroom wall, one about Michael Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania, and the other about Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane killer. A heart and a cupid's arrow were drawn by the picture of Michael Bryant.

Mr Wakerley said it ap-

peared to be a copycat crime. Campbell told police he had been wrongly criticised by society. Campbell also allegedly said he embarked on the attack because young children had jeered at him when he walked past.

His response was to enter the school grounds where he attacked three young children who were aged three or four, three mothers who were outside the school simply waiting for their children to come out and a nursery nurse employed at the school.

The attack was indiscriminate. He struck the seven of



Campbell: kept cuttings on Thomas Hamilton

them mainly about the head, face and upper body, some more than once and some when they were on the ground having been hit. You will not be surprised to learn that most sustained really severe injuries. Fortunately, all of them survived, but the prosecution say that at the time he intended to kill."

The injured were: Ahmed Malek, three; Rhena Kaur-Chopra and Francesca Quintyne, both four; Rhena's

mother, Surinder Kaur-Chopra; Azra Rafiq, a parent; Wendy Willington, 29; and Miss Potts.

Mr Wakerley said 20 children had gathered in the school grounds for the picnic, with parents arriving to collect them at 3pm. At 3.10pm Campbell left his flat carrying a light bag which held a machete, another large knife and a washing-up liquid bottle containing petrol. There were also two bars with sponges attached which could be used as "a sort of fire bomb". He had also donned a deerstalker hat with Iron Crosses drawn on it, giving it the appearance of a German helmet.

On one side of the machete was written the words "You filthy devil" and "666 marks the devil", and on the other side "666 Horns Devil".

Taking the machete, he went up to Azra Rafiq and struck them on the head from behind. Mrs Rafiq suffered a two-and-a-half inch cut along the scalp and Mrs Kaur-Chopra blacked out but was

not badly injured. He then ran towards another mother, Wendy Willington, who was waiting with her young child. She suffered serious head injuries as she threw herself to protect her son, Antonio.

Miss Potts was trying to get children to the safety of the school building as Campbell stepped over the fence towards her, striking Ahmed Malek and leaving him with deep cuts to the arm and head. He also struck out at Rhena Kaur-Chopra, slicing her across the side of her face.

As Miss Potts tried to bring children inside, Campbell struck out at Francesca Quintyne, cutting off part of her ear and breaking her jaw.

In interviews, Campbell al-

legedly told police he feared being prosecuted for driving while disqualified and added:

"If I get sent down for that I am going to go to prison for something worthwhile."

"I just wanted to hurt them. I thought I would hurt them pretty badly depending where they were hit."

The case continues.



Lisa Potts arriving at court. The judge praised her bravery in defending children

Terrified children hid under nurse's skirt

By RICHARD DUCE

LISA POTTS, the nursery nurse who came face to face with Horrett Campbell as he lashed out with a machete, described yesterday how terrified children clung to her as she tried to lead them to safety.

Miss Potts, 21, agreed to take hold of the blood-stained weapon to demonstrate how Campbell used an overarm cutting motion when striking the face of a four-year-old girl. After describing Campbell's attack on parents outside the school, Miss Potts told the jury that he came towards her with his "lips drawn back in an evil grimace".

"I was trying to gather the children up. It was crazy from them on. Some were holding on to my skirt and some of them went underneath. They were hiding with fright. I started running with the children to try to get into the



The child victims: from left, Rhena Chopra, Ahmed Malek and Francesca Quintyne

nursery door but before I knew it the man was in front of me and came at me with the machete.

"I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. As I started to run in with lots of children around me, he lashed out at one of them, straight across the face. I got inside the nursery and dropped the children, and as I

went to shut the door his foot was in it and he was inside.

"I pushed one of the children into the dressing-up area behind the door and put my arms around the others in front of me as he attacked me again. He started attacking my back. I think he hit me twice."

"I ran around the side of the water tray in the nursery and

then felt the blow on the head. That's the one I felt the most."

She said that Campbell had used blows of "great force" as he lashed out at the children. It was only when the children had reached safety that she realised she was covered in blood. The court was told that she had suffered a 6cm cut to her head which had broken

bone from her skull. Cuts to her back went down to her ribcage and the tendons in her arm and hands had been severed.

Holding the wooden handle of the machete, using a plastic glove, Miss Potts demonstrated the overarm slashing movement that Campbell used on Francesca Quintyne's face. The girl suffered a broken jaw and lost her lower ear lobe.

At the end of her evidence, Mr Justice Sedley thanked Miss Potts and paid tribute to her courage. "Your conduct was very brave indeed. I am sure you would say it was no more than any teacher or nursery nurse would have done. You may well be right. If so, it is a tribute to that profession which it well deserves."

"The real tribute is deserved by you. You acted with great selflessness and I want that to be acknowledged."

Man lost an eye in fight over wife

By PAUL WILKINSON

WHEN two middle-aged pillars of society brawled in public over a woman — "an ancient story in the history of mankind" — one was hit so hard that he was blinded in one eye, a court was told yesterday.

The altercation, on the streets of the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate in September last year, was between the woman's lover, a magistrate, and her husband, a senior civil servant. The husband, Stephen John Coles, 48, denies causing grievous bodily harm to Tim Burrell, 49, outside the home. Mr Burrell had bought for Jill Coles, 42.

Andrew Clarkson, for the prosecution, told York Crown Court that Mr Burrell's right eye was burst open by a single punch. Surgeons inserted 46 stitches but were unable to save his sight.

Mr Clarkson said: "This is an ancient story in the history of mankind and involves a matrimonial breakdown. It is not uncommon."

The case continues.

Police seize guns from campaigner

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of a gun lobby group last night accused police of harassment after they seized all 200 rounds and 20,000 rounds of ammunition from his firearms business.

Police revoked licences for Richard Law to hold firearms and shotguns or to deal in firearms during the raid at his firing range at Llwyn-drafn, Pembrokeshire, which has Home Office approval. Mr Law, 44, national secretary of the Shooters' Rights Association, said: "It does rather smack of harassment. This is an attempt to break the gun lobby."

"There is a connection that this happened the day before the report stage of the firearms Bill. We went through exactly the same process at almost exactly the same stage in the last Bill. Without the tools of my trade, I have signed on the dotted line."

Among the weapons seized were pistols, rifles, shotguns, antique guns and swords. Mr Law said that a computer and files were also removed. The premises were searched by 24

Poll backs traditional male ride

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TRADITIONALISTS in the Borders town of Hawick were heading for victory yesterday in a poll over whether to keep its Common Riding celebration all-male, amid claims of dirty tricks and a rigged referendum.

Supporters of two women who were refused permission to take part in the commemoration of a 1514 victory over the English have boycotted the poll, claiming the question set by the all-male committee was heavily loaded against them.

They said the women, Mandy Graham, 21, and Ashley Simpson, 23, had asked permission to join only three of the 16 ride-outs which dominate town life during June. But the question asked whether women should be allowed to join all of them.

Whatever the result, the women, backed by the Lady Riders' Association and the Equal Opportunities Commission, are suing the members of the Common Riding Committee, which organises the event, for sexual discrimination.

Quiz team universally challenged

By CAROL MIDGLEY

IT WAS enough to make even Jeremy Paxman attempt a show of compassion: four bright students lined up on University Challenge for total humiliation.

In the swots' corner was the Manchester University team, captained by Stephen Pearson, a trivia whiz-kid. In the dunces' corner was Birkbeck College, who proceeded to suffer the worst defeat since the BBC show began in 1962. Birkbeck could scrape only 40 points to Manchester's 360.

Their bouncingly moved Paxman to say last night: "I just felt so sorry for them, poor things. I kept peeling back the cards desperate for a question they could answer, but they couldn't. It was awful. They never got into their stride but they were up against a team captain who obviously reads a dictionary



Paxman: "I just felt so sorry for them"

in bed." Paxman was not even able to console the losers in the Green Room afterwards. "They sloped off without conning for a drink. I'm afraid," he said.

Yesterday, as the team attempted to live down their shame, Lady Blackstone, the Master of Birkbeck College, took the

first students who responded to posters placed around the college.

During the quiz, which was shown on Tuesday evening, Mr Allen had appeared speechless as Manchester repeatedly cut in to answer questions correctly. Mr Paxman only managed to say "What's the adjective that links September 16, 1992..." before the Manchester captain leapt in with "black", as in Black Monday, or Black Wednesday.

When Birkbeck finally answered a question correctly there was a cry of relief from the audience.

A BBC source suggested that, because Birkbeck's team was made up of mature students, they had slower responses. However, Birkbeck had performed well in preliminary rounds and were ranked among the 24 best teams in the country.

A light snack keeps it going 24 hours.



Here's food for thought. The Citizen Eco-Drive is powered by light. Just a few minutes is enough to make it run and run. A few hours keeps it going for up to six months. So you'll never need to change the battery. A performance you'd expect from Citizen, the first to bring the world this technology. Prices from £79.50. Ladies model illustrated £99.50. 3 year guarantee. For a brochure and your nearest stockist, call 01753 897210.

● CITIZEN Eco-Drive

Office party cases promise lawyers a happy new year

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

TOO much Christmas party spirit in the office will lead to acrimonious disputes in the new year, say lawyers. They expect a growing number of employees to be disciplined for riotous behaviour at company celebrations and then in turn to sue their employers.

The warning comes as a survey of managers shows that more companies are planning expensive celebrations than at any time since the 1980s. In the last such survey in 1994, more than half the respondents said their parties would be less imaginative than in the 1980s. 56 per cent said less money would be

spent and 45 per cent said they would be less intoxicated.

This year 44 per cent told Reed Personnel Services that their celebrations would be more expensive, with 35 per cent planning more imaginative occasions and 40 per cent set on getting drunker than they did in the 1980s.

Martin Hopkins, head of the employment law division at the Birmingham branch of the solicitors Eversheds, said the firm was expecting an increase in cases arising from office parties. "If you pay your employees in a confined space and add huge quantities of free booze, you are asking for

trouble. Employers are only just beginning to wake up to the fact that Christmas parties are an accident waiting to happen for everybody." Mr Hopkins expects his firm alone to handle between 50 and 70 such cases next year as public awareness of the legal processes grows.

A junior female employee at a small engineering firm brought a claim for constructive dismissal when she resigned after being caught with a senior member of the company having intercourse on the bonnet of his car. She settled out of court for a five-figure sum.

A couple discovered having sex under a table at an office party were dismissed but the woman said she had not been a willing party to the misdemeanour and claimed unfair dismissal. She withdrew her claim after solicitors gathered witness statements that contradicted her.

The settings for such indiscretions are becoming more imaginative, as companies spend up to £50,000 for parties at novel venues which make the traditional charms of the Natural History Museum or the National Portrait Gallery look a little sober.

"We have almost doubled the number of parties we did last year," said Caroline Armstrong-Jones, who with her husband Peregrine, Lord Snowdon's half-brother, runs Bentley's Entertainments, catering for corporate and private parties. "We are looking for new venues all the time because clients want something innovative." Her search this year has extended to the Whitechapel Gallery in the East End of London.

The authority denies it is encouraging the use of Ecstasy, LSD and speed with advertisements that spell out the risks of mixing drugs. Officials believe that, as the majority of people in their early twenties have taken a drug, providing information is better than telling them to stop.

"People are more likely to take drugs at Christmas, especially if they have had a drink, because their inhibitions are lowered," a spokesman for the authority said. "They are more likely to experiment, whereas if they were sober they would steer clear."

The advertisements appear in the glossy magazines *The Face*, *DJ Magazine*, *ID*, *Muzik* and *ModMag*. There

Tesco is cream of the puddings

By ROBIN YOUNG

TESCO'S Christmas pudding makes mincemeat of pricier competition from Harrods, and Fortnum & Mason, according to *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine.

More than 60 tasters were asked to try 20 puddings. The only homemade recipe was from Delia Smith. It fared poorly despite being inexpensive at £1.09 for 454g (lb), and

the overall verdict was "very stodgy – a dull flavour".

By contrast, the top-scoring Comteisseur Selection with cognac and rum, from Tesco, was judged "fruity, moist, with good flavours of nutt and lots of alcohol". It costs £4.99 for 454g and was, the *Which?* report says, "altogether more luxurious and more traditional" than its rivals.

Six other puddings were rated above average. Marks & Spencer's Traditional (£4.99) had a "very unusual taste".

Spencer Traditional, £2.99 for 454g; Sainsbury's Rich Fruit, £2.09; Asda Luxury, £3.29; Marks & Spencer Comteisseur, £4.99; Safeway Comteisseur with cognac, £4.39; and Sainsbury's Comteisseur, £4.49. The Harrods Super Luxury pudding was the most costly, at £6.60 for 454g, but was praised only for "good taste of alcohol". Fortnum & Mason's Traditional (£4.99) had a "very unusual taste".

PAY
YOUR
MOTOR
AND
HOME
INSURANCE
BIT BY BIT,
INTEREST
FREE.

No large lump sums
to pay. No interest to pay.
No need to hang about.
Call now for details.

GA
General Accident
Direct

MOTOR INSURANCE • BUILDINGS & CONTENTS
0800 121 000 • 0800 121 004

PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE

MORTGAGE PAYMENT PROTECTION 0800 121 008 • TRAVEL 0800 121 007

Weekdays 8am – 5pm; Sat 9am – 5pm

*Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR.

<http://www.gadirect.co.uk>



Support group: from left to right, Collins, Jaffe, Taylor Bradford, Goldsmith, Jong, Rivers, Friday, Janowitz and a cut-out Princess

Novelists see Princess romancing the throne

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

DIANA, Princess of Wales, should go to Mongolia, smear herself in yak butter and find a chieftain who is good with camels – just one of the more lubricious sequels plotted by leading "romance" writers when they gathered in a smart New York club to propound their visions of the Princess's future.

Plagiarism – and sexism, in the

authors' stretching facelifts – was never far away. Tama Janowitz, who wrote *Slaves of New York* and proposed the Mongolian adventure, was surely borrowing from Paul Bowles's *The Sheltering Sky*.

Olivia Goldsmith, of *The Wives' Club* fame, said she would have the Princess take up a \$60 million (£36 million)-a-year career as a chat-show host on American television (the figure is not entirely unrealistic).

"She could rival Oprah Winfrey," she said. Barbara Taylor Bradford ruled out remarriage: "I would have her wait for Prince William to ascend the throne, when she could take her revenge and he could give her back her HRH."

The sex chronicler Nancy Friday thought the Princess might find a new man – possibly the billionaire Bill Gates – on the Internet, while Jackie Collins, of Hollywood and the Home

Counties, proposed: "She should take a female lover and wait for her son to become king." Erica Jong (*Fear of Flying*) opted for the "fireworks" of her meeting "a potent man". The feminist in her added: "That's the problem with men – they're all impotent."

The women agreed on one thing: the Princess's salvation coming from Prince William. "The only one you can trust – your son," they sighed, a chorus in search of a happy ending.

Pregnant McAliskey remanded to men's prison

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE pregnant daughter of the former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey was refused bail yesterday and remanded as the only woman in a men's high-security prison.

Roisin McAliskey, 25, is facing extradition on charges of attempted murder and possession of explosives linked to an IRA mortar attack on an army base at Osnabrück, Germany, in June.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday, Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, rejected a request from Miss McAliskey's lawyer that she be bailed because of her difficult pregnancy and the "shocking" conditions in prison. He remanded her until December 13.

Gareth Pearce, for Miss McAliskey, said that she had been moved from Holloway to Belmarsh prison, where she was in a separate cell behind a cage in a block with 70 men. The cell had been "disgusting" and she had had to clean it herself. During exercise periods she was subjected to humiliating comments.

Miss McAliskey, who is 4½ months pregnant, was losing weight but the prison doctor had told her that she could not be sent to hospital. Mrs Pearce said: "She had not been given an obstetric examination."

Arvinder Samrai, for the German Government, opposed bail, saying there was a high risk that she would abscond. Miss Samrai said that two of Miss McAliskey's fingerprints had been found at a holiday home rented by an IRA gang. A witness had identified her from a photograph.

Outside court Miss McAliskey's mother said that she had been unable to visit her daughter at Belmarsh because visits for male inmates took precedence. "I have failed to be surprised at the racism and inhumanity of the British state."

A Prison Service spokesman said: "She is in a discreet self-contained area in the prison and she sees a doctor daily."



Probation for teenage heroin smuggler

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE trial in Italy of a 17-year-old Briton on heroin smuggling charges was suspended yesterday when the judge ordered her to serve a period of probation. Marianne Platt from Croydon, south London, faces community work or work-study in Italy when the sentence is announced on February 5.

Legal sources said magistrates had concluded that Platt had been manipulated and

was not fully aware of the smuggling operation or its serious consequences. Platt, who attended the hearing with her mother, Jackie King, was arrested in June at Caserta, near Naples, with Melanie Jackman, 19, from Brighton.

Jackman is being held on bail in a women's prison in Naples, while Platt is at a penal institution for minors in Rome. They were arrested while meeting a known smuggler after arriving in Italy on a flight from Istanbul. Police said they were carrying a holdall with a secret compartment containing four kilograms of pure heroin with a street value of nearly £500,000. Jackman told her father that she thought she was carrying money for a man she met on Brighton pier.

Susanna Spaford, for the defence, said Platt should be able to return to a "normal life" once the probation period was completed. "Marianne accepted probation because this way there will be no further consequences for her in her future life."



Platt: trial suspended

Yamaha keyboards are going for a song this Christmas

Young YAMAHA PSS6
£19.99
• 32 Micro Keys • 100 Sounds
• 15 Demonstration Songs
• 15 Jam Tracks

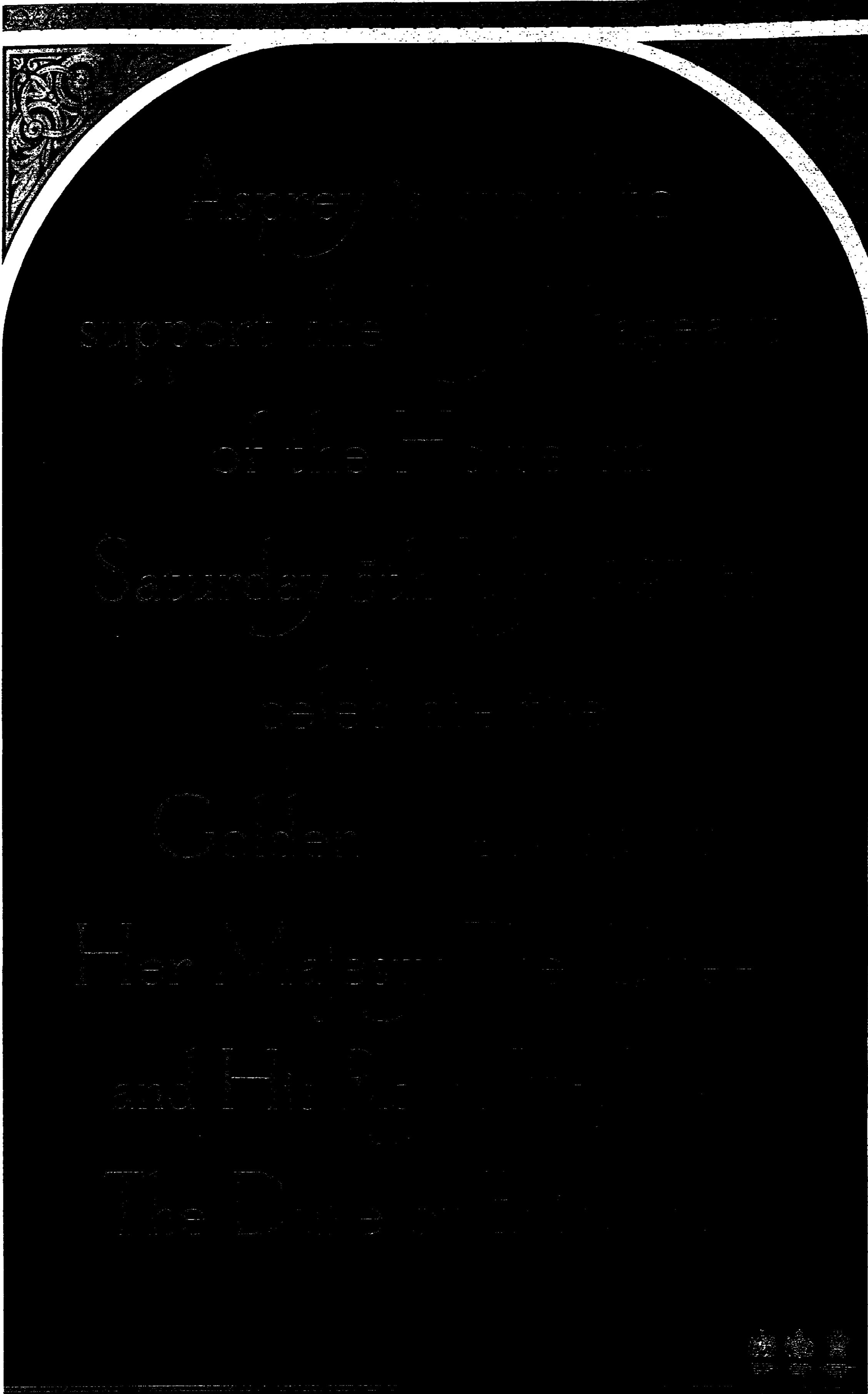
Young YAMAHA PSS12
£39.99
• Stereo Speakers • 32 Mini Keys
• 100 Sounds • 15 Rhythms
• 15 Jam Tracks

Young YAMAHA PSR77
£99.99
• 49 Full Size Keys • 100 AWM
Voices • Twin Speakers • 100
Rhythms • Multi-Timpani System

Young YAMAHA PSR190
£179.99
• 61 Full Size Keys • Stereo Sound
• 100 AWM Sounds • Graphical LCD
Display • 100 Jam Tracks

Available From: Argos • Beatles • Childrens World • Comet
• The Early Learning Centre • Fawcett's • Indes • Joly Giant
• John Lewis • Miller Brothers • Novello • Tandy • Tempo
• Toys R Us • Mail Order • and all good music shops.

YAMAHA



Saturday 5th July 1997 marks the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. To celebrate this event, Aspex (Royal Warrant holder since 1862) is honoured to support the Royal Pageant in the Horse. This year's privately organised ceremony will feature over 1,500 horses, 120 carriages and 600 musicians, singers, Military Bands and entertainers from all over Britain. We hope all those participating in the event, the Nation and the Commonwealth, will join with us in celebrating an occasion that will be every bit as joyful as the one that precipitated its 50 years ago.

Aspex
LONDON

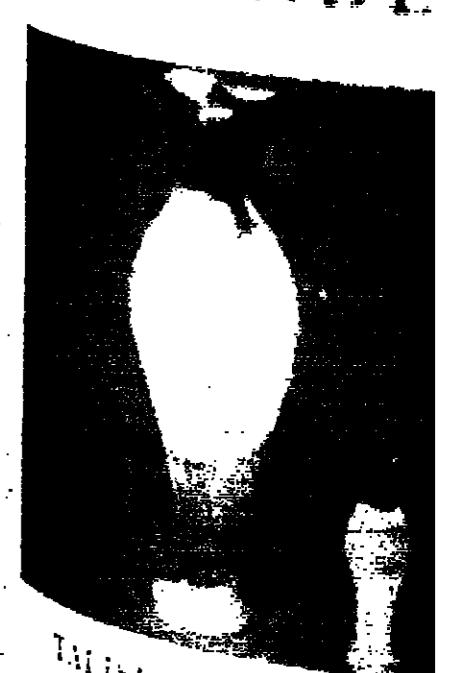
150

Harrods

Mrs Crui
lost in sp
the 5.50 t

ads use
lines to
gazing
Galler
whistle

SCENTS
WONDE



Elephant
Man has
false trai

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

HOME NEWS 11

CRISPIN ROBINS

Lottery regulator urges clampdown on underage sales

By CAROL MIDDLETON

CHILDREN will go "undercover" to catch shopkeepers who flout lottery rules under plans for a clampdown on underage gambling announced by Ofot yesterday.

The proposals coincided with the first prosecution of a shopkeeper for underage sales. Naheem Bashir, who was caught when trading standards investigators accompanied a 13-year-old girl to his shop, was fined £500.

As well as "test purchases" by children, the lottery regulator is proposing a telephone hotline for public tip-offs about sales to under-16s. It is drawing up the plans with Camelot, the lottery operator, and trading standards officers.

Peter Davis, Director-General of Ofot, described the existence of habitual young lottery and scratchcard players as disturbing. "I will not tolerate sales to under-16s," he said. "They are illegal and bad for the reputation of the National Lottery and, with the help of responsible parents and the public, I intend to make them bad for retailers who flout the law."

Trading standards officials have complained that Camelot has dropped only three of the 35,000 lottery outlets because



Bashir: fined £500 for sales to schoolgirl

Newspaper caught after police tip-off

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE newspaper fined for underage lottery sales was caught after a girl's stepfather tipped off the police and Camelot.

Naheem Bashir, 34, admitted selling an Instants ticket and a National Lottery draw ticket to the 13-year-old girl. He was charged after two trading standards officers accompanied her to his shop, N&N Newsagents, in Armley, Leeds, and saw her buy the tickets.

Leeds Magistrates' Court was told that the police and Camelot were tipped off by her stepfather after she bought a ticket in March. Bashir, who runs the shop with his brother Nadeem, told trading standards investigators that he believed the girl to be "well over 16". The men said that they were aware of the legal restrictions on ticket sales and that they would check a customer's age if they looked under 16.

Jeremy Young, for Bashir, told the court that the lottery machine and Instants tickets had been removed by Camelot and business was suffering as a result. He presented a petition in support of Bashir, signed by his regular customers, and said that it was often "extremely difficult" to tell how old a teenager was.

"This is not a bad man, but unfortunately he has fallen foul of the situation," Mr Young told the magistrates.

"Camelot, for my client's breach, have removed his terminal. One wonders, if Camelot had been prosecuted,

what would have been removed from them. This case is a salutary lesson that one can never be too careful."

Bashir, of Roundhay, Leeds, declined to comment after the case. Mr Young said: "He feels unlucky, but somebody was going to be."

The case, which was the first of its kind, was brought by West Yorkshire trading standards officers. Camelot said:

"We are delighted that a trading standards department has, for the first time, prosecuted a National Lottery retailer for selling tickets to underage players."

ADOPT AN ANIMAL



(FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET)

Whether you choose an ant or an elephant, no one is too young or too old to enjoy such an unusual Christmas present.

Adoptive 'parents' will receive a certificate, a photograph, a free ticket to London Zoo, a year's free subscription to *Lifespan* magazine and the recipient's name will be listed on a special 'thank you' board in the Zoo. By adopting an animal you are playing an important part in helping our vital conservation work.

You can even adopt by credit card.

For full details call 0171 449 6262, and we'll tell you exactly how you get an elephant in a Christmas stocking!



London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY

Possession is all of the law in police rivalry

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Dublin's chief of police calls on his counterpart in Belfast, he casts an envious eye over two large silver candelabra prominently displayed in the foyer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary headquarters.

However, Pat Byrne, the Garda Commissioner, is unlikely to secure the silverware for the Republic. Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable,

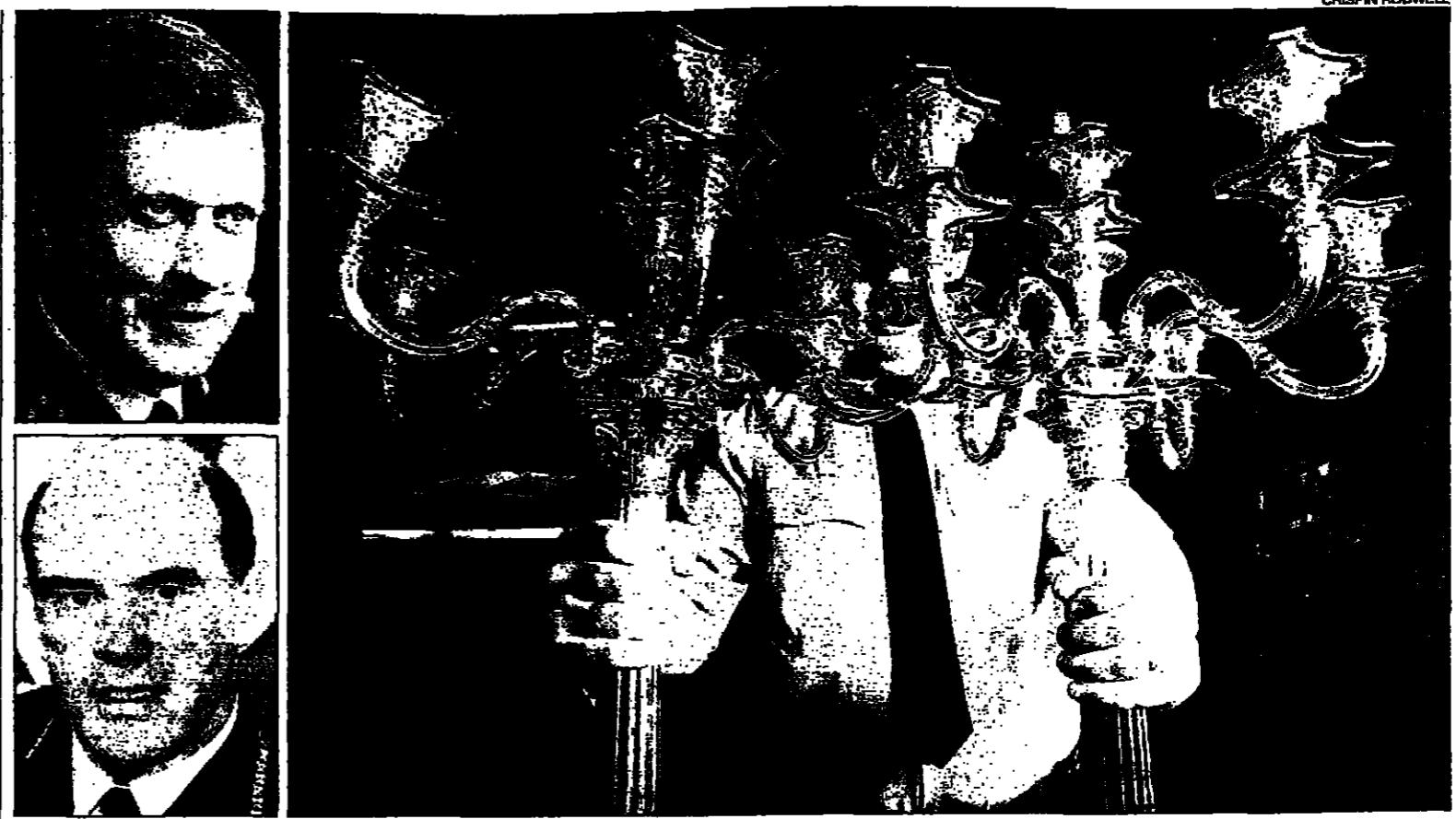
is said to have no intention of breaking the tradition of Sir Hugh Annesley, his predecessor, who used to take great pleasure in pointing out the candelabra to visiting Irish commissioners. Sir Hugh would tease them with the words: "They're ours and you're not having them."

The candelabra used to form the centrepiece of the officers' mess at the old Royal Irish Constabulary headquarters in Dublin and the Irish police want them back. When the force was

disbanded at the partition of Ireland in 1922 – to be replaced by the RUC in the North and the Garda Siochana in the South – the silver was among hundreds of items distributed to RUC officers by lot. The candelabra, embossed with the RUC insignia, were passed to the RUC in Belfast by relatives of the officers who secured them in 1922.

On returning south from a recent visit to Belfast, a smiling Mr Byrne told an audience in Dublin: "I saw it and I want it back. At some stage it could be an international incident."

The rivalry between the two forces over the candelabra extends to a friendly competition to secure the other items. The Garda museum in Dublin has an impressive collection of silver spoons with the RUC insignia. Once again, though, the RUC has the upper hand, with a silver snuff box made from the hoof of a horse that saw action at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.



DOUBLE UP AT B&Q

"EARN
DOUBLE
TESCO CLUBCARD
POINTS ON
EVERYTHING*
AT B&Q"

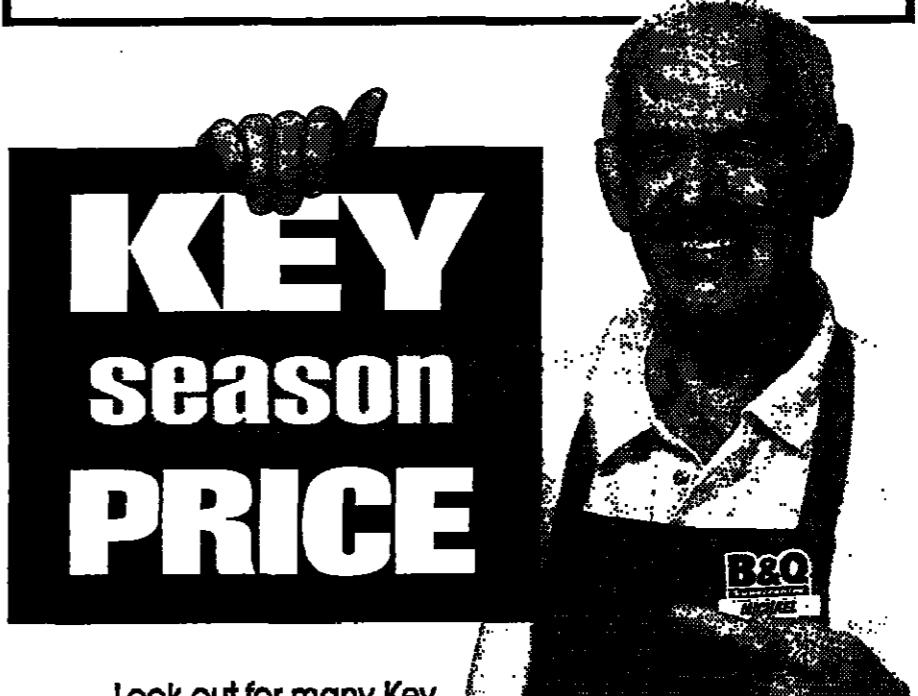
"FIND KEY SEASON
PRODUCTS FOR
LESS LOCALLY AND
WE'LL REFUND
DOUBLE
THE DIFFERENCE"



SUSAN BURR
Sales Adviser

TESCO
CLUBCARD
634004526782101678
TESCO

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December, you can use your Tesco Clubcard to collect double points on everything you buy at B&Q. Spend only £5 to start earning points.



Look out for many Key Season Price products around the store.

MICHAEL CASEY
Sales Adviser

TODAY and TOMORROW
Thursday & Friday 5th-6th December

**A BIGGER
CHOICE
A BETTER
PRICE**

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN –
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-10pm.
Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm
(where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary.
please phone your nearest store to confirm.

*The double points offer at B&Q applies on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December 1996 only. However, the standard Tesco Clubcard offer will apply on all other days. Clubcard offers available in B&Q Value Stores and do not apply to B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Pick up a leaflet in-store. Key Season Price products are clearly marked in-store. If you find any for less locally we will refund double the difference. All we ask is that the lower price is generally available to any customer and that you call back within 14 days with your B&Q receipt. This excludes price reductions made with B&Q Warehouse or B&Q Depots. See in-store for details. Standard price promise which applies to all other products. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots.

Cranborne defends honour and value of the Upper House

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Leader of the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne, yesterday condemned Labour's plans to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers. He said that the party's reforms were ill-considered and would turn the Lords into the greatest quango in the country.

But Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, gave warning that Labour would flood the Lords with life peers if the Tory opposition to constitutional reform, including the party's plans for devolution, became too great. Interviewed by the *New Statesman*, Lord Irvine said: "I wouldn't rule it out. If this was a piece with a determination to thwart devolution legislation, then a Labour government would have to look at every weapon at its disposal."

Lord Cranborne, in a speech to the think-tank Policy, confirmed that in opposition the Tories would not try to overturn Labour's constitutional reforms by ignoring the so-called Salisbury convention, under which peers do not oppose manifesto commitments of an incoming government. But he warned Labour to stick to another equally important convention that constitutional reforms should be fully debated by a committee of the whole House of

Commons. In effect this would allow the Tories to bog down the legislation with detailed amendments.

Lord Cranborne said: "If the electorates wish to reform us, the Salisbury convention would apply. This means that the House of Lords would not vote against the second reading of a Bill whose principle had been set out in a new government's manifesto."

But he added: "We would still have a constitutional obligation to improve the quality of the legislation by amending it in detail insofar as we think this is justified."

While Labour will see this as a warning not to expect their reforms to get an easy ride in Parliament, Lord Cranborne's remarks will dismay some Tory peers who feel that the Salisbury convention will unnecessarily tie their hands in opposition. Lord Cranborne believes that scrapping the convention, which was proposed in 1945 by his grandfather, the Fifth Marquess of Salisbury, would make the Lords look undemocratic and could increase the pressure for reform.

He said that Labour's "piecemeal" reforms would not improve the constitution but would give greater power to the Lords at the expense of the Commons, challenging

Romanticised claims are unconvincing

The House of Commons is the key to reforming the House of Lords. Any reform of the Lords would increase its authority and so challenge the Commons. That is why Lords reform founded in the late 1960s and it remains the unresolved question about Labour's proposals as Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords, argued in his lecture yesterday. This was delivered, appropriately, at 11 Carlton House Terrace, once a home of Gladstone, the long-time opponent of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, the late Victorian Prime Minister and great-grandfather of his lordship.

He admitted that the "spirit of the age was not instinctively sympathetic" to hereditary peers. "Traditionally the public sees the hereditary peerage as a collection of chintz wonders who live on their broad acres, shooting and hunting anything that moves, weak in arm and weak in head, rather like me in fact. The reality is rather different."

He said that the number of landowning hereditary peers who attended the Lords was declining, and that active peers increasingly were "not rich", had normal jobs and represented the "common man in Parliament". He denied that the Tories had an automatic majority of those peers who regularly attended. Only half of all hereditary peers were Tory, and even they had a "distressing habit of listening to the argument".

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the Lords, said: "Our commitment to the reform of the House of Lords remains unshaken, and we will look to the electorate to help us get it through."



a body chosen by lot, that he would have us believe. They may be accidents of history but they are not a random sample of the population. His claims that the Lords does not have an in-built Tory majority dependent on hereditary peers were unconvincing. The Government is regularly defeated, but most defeats are minor; when it matters, the

Tory whips almost always prevail.

The Cranborne strategy is of studied reasonableness, partly to head off confrontationists in his own ranks, the heirs, literally, to the duchards of 1910-11. Lord

have been definitely put before the electorate".

By avoiding such a fight, he reserves the right for the Lords to act as an independent-minded revising chamber. He warned against any attempt to take the detailed Commons scrutiny of constitutional measures upstairs in standing committees to avoid clogging up the House with Labour's many proposals for constitutional reform. Lord Cranborne said the convention that the committee stages of such Bills should be on the floor of the Commons was an important safeguard. He linked this to the Salisbury convention on the powers of the Lords, with the implication that if Labour changes the way constitutional matters are considered in the Commons, this will affect their treatment in the Lords.

The paradox of the Lords is that if it uses its power to defend the Commons it makes itself indefensible, while any attempt to make its composition more defensible has so far been unacceptable to the Commons. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, makes plain in the *New Statesman* today that Labour is determined to abolish hereditary peers and would be prepared to consider the Asquith-Lloyd George threat of 1911 of a mass creation of life peers if the Lords obstructed constitutional reform. The Tories would be better advised to concentrate on questioning Labour's reform proposals than to go to the last ditch in defending hereditary peers. Tony Blair can only win such a peers-versus-the-people battle.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair wins support for code of conduct

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR won the support of Labour MPs last night for a new code of conduct that makes it a disciplinary offence to do anything that "brings the party into disrepute".

Mr Blair made clear that Labour should be seen as professional and disciplined in contrast to the Tory party. But the code, supported by 86 to 27, was watered down by an amendment stating that it should be applied in a way that did not "stifle democratic debate on policy matters". The amendment said that the code should not "weaken the spirit of tolerance and respect referred to in Clause Four".

There were also signs yesterday that backbenchers may not hold the line. Twenty-seven MPs, including members of the left-wing campaign group, voted against the code and two MPs, Jeremy Corbyn and Eddie Laidlow, have signed a petition from the Socialist Workers' Party attacking the Labour leader.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Home Office questions to the Prime Minister; Attlee (Amendment) Bill, second reading; (No 1) Order, Port of Tyne Authority (Transfer of Understanding) Order; Social Security (Amendment) Bill, second reading; Capital Payments (Amendment) Bill, Report; Repeal of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Health and Safety at Work etc. Bill, report; Land Registration Bill, committee; Theft (Amendment) Bill, committee; (Amendment) Bill, second reading; Housing Energy Rating Survey Bill, second reading; debate on proposed sale of benefit offices.

You get 17 days free winter sports cover with our £59 annual travel insurance.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance from £59 now and you'll be covered for 17 days winter sports cover at no extra cost. One payment allows you to take an unlimited number of trips throughout the year. So your summer holiday will be automatically covered too.

What's more, you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this extra security.

Example Travel Insurance Rates

Single Trip	Individual	Family
Europe	£26.50	£57
Worldwide	£53	£114
Annual Cover	Includes 17 days winter sports cover	
Europe	£59	£95
Worldwide	£89	£127

Rates are available for those aged over 65 years.

To enrol, call the number below between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Saturday quoting reference TPS.

0800 700 737

Insurance Services

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



TRAVEL

Boom time as the sun shines on Britain
PAGES 34, 35



ARTS

Home for the holidays with the family from hell
PAGES 37-39



SPORT

Croft turns tide to save England from humiliation
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

Bass toasts 7,000 new jobs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BASS, the brewing and leisure company, plans to create about 7,000 jobs in its pubs and leisure businesses this year as it ploughs £670 million into expansion plans. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said the jobs would be concentrated in its branded pubs businesses — which include All Bar One, Fork and Pitcher and Harvester — while about 1,500 positions will be created through the expansion of its bowling parks and Dave and Busters, the adult orientated electronic theme parks.

Bass unveiled a 12 per cent increase in full-year profit before tax to £671 million. It added that it had created about 6,000 jobs this year after investing £568 million.

The job details come as the company awaits an Office of Fair Trading decision on whether to refer its £200 million purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The City is expecting Bass to make

substantial job cuts if it receives regulatory clearance for the takeover of the rival brewing group. Bass said yesterday it had no further concrete details on the regulatory process although the company confirmed it would walk away from the deal if the authorities imposed conditions regarded as too stringent.

Turnover rose 12.5 per cent

to £5.1 billion. The total dividend rises 10 per cent to 25p — above City expectations.

Hooper's Hoop, the country's bestselling alecrop, helped profits in the brewery division to rise 9 per cent to £157 million. Sir Ian said he did not believe that the 40 per cent duty rise imposed in the Budget would have a significant effect on sales. Bass has

begun exporting Hooper's to some 30 countries and said initial sales were promising.

Overall volumes in the beer division rose 2.1 per cent with premium products such as Carlsberg, Carling Premier and Grolsch enjoying strong growth. Brivac, the soft drinks division, increased profits 9 per cent to £50 million.

Frankie Detorri's achieve-

ment in riding seven race winners at Ascot hit profits at the leisure division, which fell 11 per cent to £66 million. Bass said Mr Detorri's unique feat, on the last Saturday of the company's financial year, cost Coral, its bookmaking business, about £4 million. Continuing difficulties at the Galabingo business also hurt profits, with bingo admissions

falling 3.1 per cent. The managed house division lifted operating profits 23 per cent to £221 million as food sales rose 54 per cent. Drink sales were 56 per cent ahead.

Bass currently owns and manages 2,780 pubs, including 102 Harvester restaurants, 69 O'Neil's Irish theme pubs and 15 All Bar One cafe bars. Profits from the company's

1,440 tenanted pubs rose 51 million to £61 million.

The hotel division increased operating profits 19 per cent to £195 million helped by rising room rates in America. Bass added a further 250 hotels to its Holiday Inn Worldwide franchise brand during the year, bringing the total number to 2,250 hotels with 387,000 rooms. A further 560 hotels, with 59,000 rooms, have gained formal approval to join the brand but have not yet entered the system. Bass said it expects about 85 per cent of these to join the system over the next 18 months.

Sir Ian said the company expects growth to be restored to the leisure business this year and that the continuing buoyancy in consumer spending and growth in demand for US hotels should drive the business forward. But he said a strengthening pound could hit dollar profits.

A final dividend of 17.3p is payable on February 10.

Pennington, page 27

ScottishPower wields axe

By OLIVER AUGUST

SCOTTISHPOWER is to shed 2,000 jobs at Southern Water as part of a reorganisation programme.

ScottishPower said that Southern Water, acquired for £68 billion in July, was unfocused, wasteful and lacking in efficiency.

Mike Kinski, who is leading the reorganisation, said Southern Water was burdened by its huge bureaucracy, which had developed as

the utility diversified. At the time of the takeover, he said, 25 employees were needed to do the paperwork for the bills that the different divisions were charging each other. A consumer service system is to receive computer technology for the first time and the number of customer call centres is to be reduced from four to one.

Of the 2,000 jobs, 700 will disappear through direct cuts at Southern Water and 1,300 are to be shed through selling

off non-core businesses. ScottishPower increased pre-tax profits 31 per cent to £167 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose 28 per cent to 14p and the interim dividend was lifted from 5.17p to 6.17p. The full-year dividend is forecast to rise 19 per cent to 18.5p.

The company said that integration targets at Manweb, acquired in 1995, had exceeded expectations.

Pennington, page 27

Unions attack NatWest

NATWEST was criticised by unions after it confirmed that it would cut "at least" 10,000 more jobs and close 200 branches by the year 2000 (Robert Miller writes).

Bifu, the banking, finance and insurance union, said NatWest's decision would hit some communities very hard and called for a rethink. Alan Ainsworth, Bifu assistant secretary added: "We cannot endorse the creation of unemployment

ghettos." The 30,000-strong NatWest Staff Association said: "This number of job losses is huge in anyone's language. We will examine and scrutinise all of the bank's proposals to ensure they are sensible, not only for staff who stay or go, but also for customers."

Tim Jones, managing director of retail banking, said the two unions had helped to draw up the strategy behind the announcement.

Pennington, page 27

Capel loses £3.6m over Energy sale

By KEITH RODGERS

HSBC James Capel is nursing a loss of £3.675 million on a single transaction after the Government's sale of 81 million shares in British Energy, the nuclear generator, on Tuesday.

The market maker bought the entire stake at a price of 146p a share, and sold about a quarter of the holding on the same day. Yesterday it declared an outstanding interest in 8.75 per cent of British Energy, and is expected to retain the holding in the medium term. However, the shares closed at 140p yesterday, leaving James Capel with 61.25 million shares valued at 60p less than the purchase price.

British Energy shares have

already had a rocky ride since flotation in the summer, initially falling below the 105p offer price. The Government retained a 12 per cent stake after failing to find buyers.

The disposal was part of a £257 million divestment of utility shares, and included 6.6 million National Grid shares and 18.7 million ScottishPower. Holdings in six electricity companies were sold to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which declined to comment yesterday on their forward sale. Shares in three water companies were also sold. The Treasury retains holdings in BT and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

Pound slips back again

THE pound continued to fall yesterday. Sterling's trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies closed at 92.7, compared with 93.7 on Tuesday, losing ground against the mark and dollar. It finished at about DM2.5602, down nearly two pence from Tuesday and nearly eight pence lower than Monday's peak of DM2.6370.

Gilt repos, page 26

Delta in talks to create world's largest carrier

From RICHARD THOMSON in NEW YORK

DELTA AIRLINES and Continental Airlines are in talks to create the world's largest carrier. A merger could trigger a wave of consolidation in the crowded US airline industry.

Insiders said the most likely outcome from the talks was a takeover worth about \$1.8 billion of Continental; the fifth largest American carrier, by Delta, the third largest.

The combined company would have about one quarter of America's domestic market, overtaking United Airlines in US business, although it

would still trail United and American Airlines in international services. It would serve about 155 cities inside the US.

The route networks of Delta and Continental would fit fairly well together although both operate from hubs in the South. Delta is centred on Atlanta, while Continental's hub is Dallas, but the overlap is not great. Overseas, Delta operates more routes to Europe, while Continental Airlines concentrates on Latin America.

The talks, which surprised most analysts, are the latest step in the consolidation of the US airline industry that has prompted a wave of deals with foreign carriers, the largest of which is the proposed link between British Airways and American.

US companies have made large profits over the last two years but see little room for further organic growth, increasing pressure for growth through takeovers or other deals. An agreement between BA and American would produce the world's largest international air network. It would also give BA access to the huge domestic US market by linking with American's internal flights.

However, merger talks between US airlines are notoriously uncertain as the failed negotiations between American and United demonstrated last year. The deals most likely to succeed are now between relatively weak airlines and stronger airlines with a large market share.

Inside the US, the airlines with the widest networks and the most "hub" airports are regarded as the strongest placed to take advantage of an industry consolidation. Continental is the weaker partner in the current talks, having emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just two and a half years ago.

David Bonderman, its leading shareholder who has mastered the airline's financial recovery, describes himself as a medium-term investor and may be looking to sell his shares, analysts said.

Abell sues Suter for £2m

By MARTIN BAKER

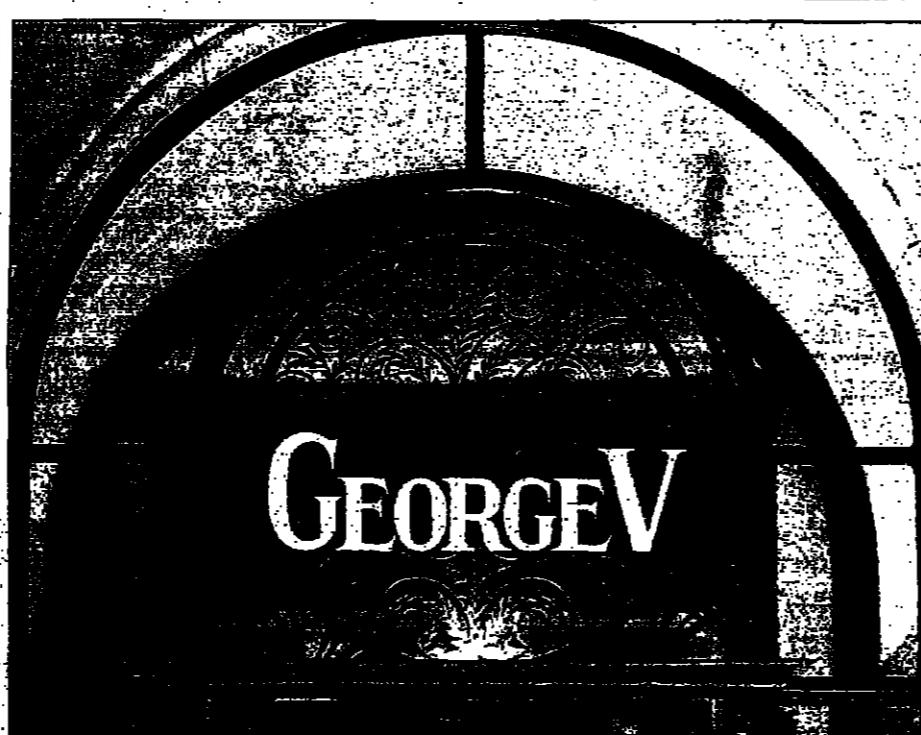
DAVID ABELL, the controversial former chairman of Suter, the industrial conglomerate, is suing his old company for £2 million.

Mr Abell, who made an estimated £10 million last year when he sold Suter to Ascot Holdings for £290 million, is alleging that Suter has failed to honour the three-year rolling contract that paid him £390,000 a year. Bonuses and a putative pay rise boost the sum claimed to the £2 million mark.

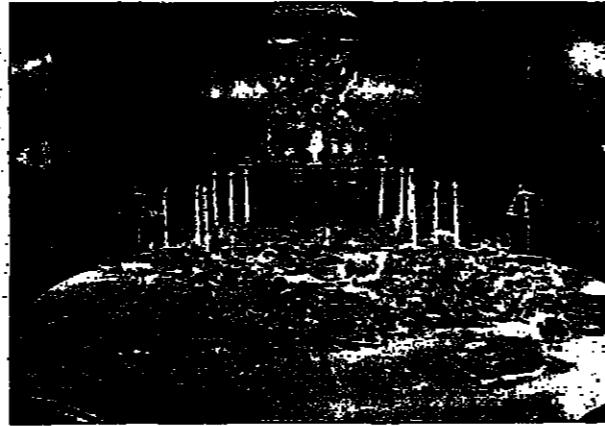
A spokesman for Suter said: "We have offered Mr Abell a very substantial sum of money to settle his contract, and the record will show that."

The spokesman added: "But he obviously wants more and has served us with a writ."

Mr Abell was unavailable for comment yesterday. He has enjoyed a somewhat volatile relationship with the City after his share dealings were criticised by the Department of Trade and Industry in 1993.



The way in for Prince al-Waleed: the George V hotel in Paris being sold by Granada Group



Part of the dining room at the prestigious hotel



Prince al-Waleed: beat rivals

Saudi prince buys George V

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi billionaire who is a nephew of King Fahd, yesterday revealed he was buying the George V hotel in Paris for £104 million from Granada Group.

The Prince is understood to have beaten off stiff competition, including Prince Jefri of Brunei, to secure the George V — one of the world's most prestigious hotels. The hotel, which has 258 rooms, was opened in 1928. Last year the hotel, part of Granada's Exclusive chain, made an operating loss of £200,000 on £17 million turnover. The City welcomed the sale

price — well above the hotel's book value of £92.3 million. Granada's shares rose 8p to close at 82.5p.

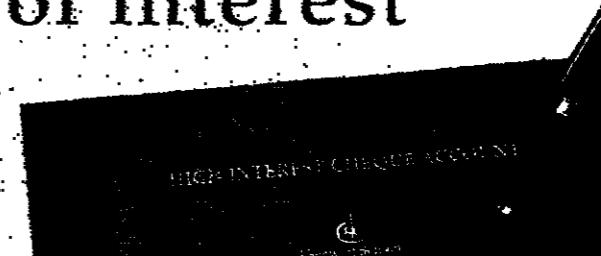
Earlier this month Granada made its first Exclusive sale, when Mandarin Oriental International, the Hong Kong-based hotel group, paid £86 million for the Hyde Park Hotel in London. Granada is aiming to sell the remaining 15 hotels in the Exclusive chain, which has a total book value of £800 million over the next few months. Chelsfield, the property company, is believed to be close to acquiring the Westbury in Mayfair for around £40 million.

Earlier this year, the Prince took the unusual step of teaming up with Michael Jackson, the pop star, to establish a multimedia entertainment business focusing on "family values".



HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT

Our cheque book is attracting a lot of interest



HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT

5.20%

- Interest paid monthly (5.33% gross compounded annually)
- Instant cheque book access to your money
- This account is available for individuals, companies, partnerships and clubs
- Minimum balance is £2,500

Call Luke Costanzo free on

0800 317477

Kleinwort Benson
PRIVATE BANK
Kleinwort Benson Private Bank
PO Box 191 10 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 3JB
Kleinwort Benson Private Bank is a Division of
Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited
a subsidiary of English NatWest Group
Member of the Dresdner Bank Group

Citibank expands in Dublin

Citibank is to set up its second European processing centre in Dublin. The back-office support centre will create 950 jobs.

Unofficial sources put Citibank's investment at around £150 million and the Irish Government's need to £10 million. Citibank already employs 150 people in the Republic.

Caffyns up

Reduced interest charges helped Caffyns the automotive distributor, to lift pre-tax profits to £754,000 (£291,000) on turnover little changed at £86.3 million. (£23 million). The interim is held at 5p, due on January 10.

New director

Body Shop International has appointed Adrian Bellamy as its third non-executive director. Mr Bellamy has 25 years' experience in the retailing sector, mainly in America. Ivan Levy is to be executive director in charge of retailing.

Clydeport

Clydeport expects to increase this year's total dividend to at least 4.5p a share from 4.4p previously, with a final dividend of no less than 3p (Business News, December 4).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	1.20	1.25
Austria Sch	12.04	17.44
Belgium Fr	55.98	51.29
Canada \$	2.323	2.163
Denmark Kr	6.08	6.16
Denmark Kr	10.34	9.24
Finland Mark	8.20	7.55
France Fr	9.03	8.25
Germany Dr	2.17	2.50
Germany Dr	4.16	3.63
Hong Kong \$	13.33	12.53
Iceland	1.20	1.00
India Ru	1.05	0.97
Israel Shek	5.05	5.04
Italy Lira	2625	2470
Japan Yen	200.41	184.11
Malta	0.638	0.581
Netherlands Gld	3.012	2.782
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.52
New Zealand \$	11.19	10.39
Portugal Esc	258.50	250.00
S Africa Rand	8.21	7.41
Spain Pes	22.00	20.00
Sweden Kr	11.75	10.95
Switzerland Fr	2.29	2.11
Turkey Lira	180750	180750
USA \$	1.74	1.70

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



PETER TREVOR

Bank adds 'gilt repos' to money-market operations

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday announced what it called the biggest change to its daily money-market operations for a century, claiming that London's money and bond markets were now "state of the art" and able to compete with any other financial centre in the world.

The big change is the inclusion of "gilt repos" in the Bank's money-market operations as well as Treasury bills.

the main instrument since the last century.

This follows the enormous growth of the gilt repo market that was set up in January this year. There are now an estimated £60 billion of gilt repos outstanding — three times the amount of bills.

The gilt repo market allows banks and other players to borrow and lend money with gilts as security, a facility that the Bank argues has made the

gilts market more liquid and more attractive to foreign investors.

Allowing gilt repos to be used in the money markets will provide another useful and widely traded instrument to banks and others to manage their daily cash needs more flexibly.

The Bank also announced yesterday that it was opening up the money market to a greater array of financial play-

ers, including banks, building societies and securities firms as well as the discount houses that have long been the market's middle men.

Ian Plenderleith, executive director of the Bank, said that the new arrangements were compatible with the Europe-wide arrangements being developed in the European Monetary Institute, but that this was not the prime consideration.

He said that the Bank was responding to the ever-modernising financial markets and that its programme of updating trading structures would help London to maintain its pre-eminent position as a financial centre whether or not Britain opted into the single currency.

The Bank is seeking com-

ment on its proposals and is hoping to implement final plans early next year.

Reaction to yesterday's £2.5 billion auction of five-year gilts was disappointing with bids received of only 1.7 times the amount on offer. This is less strong than the demand seen at the previous two auctions.

Flexibility hits pay, according to study

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's labour market reforms, making Britain's job market more flexible, have led to greater pay inequality, an official study acknowledges today.

While ministers insist today that the findings suggest that the Government's labour market reforms are helping to boost the UK economy overall, the acknowledgement of their impact on earnings and equality will be taken as significant.

Labour and the trade unions have long argued that greater labour market flexibility makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. This is confirmed in a study published today in the Office for National Statistics' *Labour Market Trends* journal. It concludes that while the Government's reforms of unions, employment rights, social security and minimum wages have led to some increase in flexibility,

labour market inequality

increased more quickly in the UK than in any of the other countries.

The study has continued in the 1990s, the study says, with male wage inequality stagnating in 1992-94 but then showing a "large rise" in 1995, and female wage inequality rising more quickly in the 1990s than in the previous decade.

The study suggests that other factors include technological progress favouring skilled workers and competition from low-wage developing countries.

On jobs, where Government ministers claim Britain is improving, the study says that the UK employment performance does not appear particularly impressive by international standards.

Employment in the UK still fell in the first three years of the 1990s

recovery. Only in Canada and Germany was employment performance "clearly worse" than in Britain. On unemployment, the study says the UK is now performing better than other European countries.

BAe consortium buys into German defence

A CONSORTIUM containing British Aerospace has finally sealed a £100 million deal to buy a 49 per cent stake in STN Atlas, Germany's foremost military electronics company. The consortium, which includes Rheinmetall and Badenwerke, the German industrial combines, negotiated the sale with the liquidator of the Bremer Vulkan shipyard, one-time owner of STN.

BAE's move to join the consortium followed a failed attempt to enter the naval market with a bid for the VSEL shipbuilder. A spokesman said: "It will be a real increase in our customer base because of STN's work for the German ministry of defence." In 1995 STN made DM32 million pre-tax profit on DM145 billion sales and had about DM88 million net assets.

Banking complaints up

COMPLAINTS made to the Banking Ombudsman up to September 30 rose by more than 20 per cent to a record 22,793. Laurence Shumshur, outgoing ombudsman, blamed banks' attempts to improve efficiency through branch closures and new technology. Only 7,204 translated into written complaints that the ombudsman felt worthy of examination in more depth — 8 per cent up on last year. About one-third of complaints concerned lending and mortgages. Average award was £2,815.

AIM rules tightened

THE London Stock Exchange has tightened the listing rules for the Alternative Investment Market, demanding more information about companies planning to join and exercising greater control over the role of the junior market's 61 nominated advisers. As from January 2 companies must name not only their major shareholders, but anyone providing it with formal or informal financial backing at least ten working days before flotation.

About-turn by UKAV

UK Active Value Fund, the dissident Greycat shareholder, is no longer seeking to liquidate the Greycat property portfolio. The fund claimed success in securing an intention from Greycat to sell the £200 million Embankment Place office building. In a sudden about-turn, UKAV will abstain from voting on the proposal at today's extraordinary meeting.

However, a spokesman said it was still in sympathy with the bid approach from Moorfield.

Salvesen meets rebels

DIRECTORS of Christian Salvesen yesterday met about 60 of the transportation group's largest private shareholders to discuss their concerns over plans for a special dividend payout and demerger. Sir Gerald Elliot, the former Salvesen chairman leading the dissidents, said shareholders were very strongly opposed to the demerger of Aggreko, its hire business, and the £100 million payout. The rebels must now decide whether to call an extraordinary meeting.

Enviromed board threat

RON ZWANZIGER, the American biotech businessman, has staged a second attempt to gain control of Enviromed, the UK-listed healthcare company, through a motion to oust its entire board. Selfcare, Mr Zwanziger's US-based medical services group, has used its 28.9 per cent of Enviromed's voting shares to demand the dismissal of Tom Murphy, chief executive, and the three other board members. Enviromed's shares closed 1p stronger yesterday at 24.5p.

"In the first six months of the year we have delivered

good financial results and made substantial progress

in both strategic and operational terms. The acquisition

of Southern Water has considerably advanced our main

objective of becoming a leading multi-utility company,

while the acquisition of Manweb in 1995 is delivering

value ahead of our targets. In addition, our continued and sustained focus on our Scottish energy businesses has resulted in improved performance. Moreover, we have continued to invest in our developing businesses, notably in ScottishTelecom and in our Retail business.

We now have in place a strong platform of businesses and territories in the UK which we look to develop."


Murray Scott, Chairman

PROFIT BEFORE TAX
up 31% to £167 million

EARNINGS PER SHARE
(adjusted) up 26% to 14.01p

FULL YEAR DIVIDEND FORECAST
raised to 18.5p, an increase of 19%

INTERIM RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1996

Our strategy continues to pay dividends

value ahead of our targets. In addition, our continued and sustained focus on our Scottish energy businesses has resulted in improved performance. Moreover, we have continued to invest in our developing businesses, notably in ScottishTelecom and in our Retail business.

We now have in place a strong platform of businesses and territories in the UK which we look to develop."


Murray Scott, Chairman

PROFIT BEFORE TAX
up 31% to £167 million

EARNINGS PER SHARE
(adjusted) up 26% to 14.01p

FULL YEAR DIVIDEND FORECAST
raised to 18.5p, an increase of 19%

Membership Rewards programme is the best*

Perhaps you need some more facts:

Inside Flyer magazine named Membership Rewards the Best Affinity Credit Card programme of 1996. "By a staggering majority, American Express comes first, wiping out all rivals..." Once enrolled you can enjoy a great range of rewards including complimentary flights through a choice of eight frequent flyer programmes. You gain points with virtually every purchase you make on the Charge, Credit or Corporate Card. These points don't expire as long as you're a Cardmember. Plus if you use the Card to book with our partners, you gain their programme points as well as valuable Membership Rewards Points. Any more questions?

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

0800 700 767



Cards



Creating Value. Building Businesses.

Give yourself
a Year of rewards
Start with
the CIM Card

□ MMC beckons for beer merger □ Whistle-blowers may regret their altruism □ Taking the cost out at Southern

□ COMPANY announcements seem to get longer and longer. Bass's full-year statement yesterday weighed in at 27 pages — and still barely a mention of the main question on investors' minds, whether the company will be allowed to become Britain's biggest brewer.

Reticence is understandable because these are delicate days for the purchase of half of Carlsberg-Tetley, which would give Bass control of two-fifths of British beer production. The Office of Fair Trading's views went last week to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and are thought to be damning.

It is now up to Mr Lang whether to require Bass to negotiate terms and conditions with a hostile Office of Fair Trading, or to throw the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It will not be an easy decision, but Mr Lang has only himself to blame. If had always been assumed that a 25 per cent market share was any brewer's limit.

But he allowed that ceiling to be breached with Scottish & Newcastle's purchase of Courage. That gave S&N 30 per cent, so raising the question of where the limit should now be set.

About 10 per cent of beer consumed in Britain is imported

legally, and more is smuggled in across the Channel. Supporters of further consolidation say there is enough choice to prevent exploitation. The brewers' share of each pint accounts for only about 25p anyway, leaving little leeway for huge price rises. Most developed countries have only two big brewers, such duopolies being the natural market structure for low-price, high-volume consumer products.

The rest of the brewing industry is dead against Bass's expansion plans. S&N would prefer to remain top dog, the small regionals and the new pub operators fear any greater power won by the majors.

This all stems from the changed nature of the British pub, as brought about by the pub sales forced on the majors by the Government's 1989 Beer Orders. They were deprived of the easy living provided by all that captive estate, while the purchasers provided extra competition.

The result was that the price of beer outpaced inflation, but pubs

in general improved. The returns available from brewing fell, and several smaller brewers quit the game.

The Carlsberg deal would leave more than four-fifths of production in the hands of three players. Bass was saying yesterday that it would walk away if the terms struck were too onerous — say the disposal of every pub or brand. It will not come to that. The most likely outcome is an MMC inquiry, the timetable of the Carlsberg deal even allowing for this, to decide under what circumstances Bass can achieve its aims. That is, after all, what the MMC is there for.

How fraudsters evade the net

□ WHEN two Far East banks blew the whistle recently, they were left wishing they had been less public spirited. The account holder they suspected sued for \$300 million, saying the freezing of his accounts had blocked a big



Police Officers' crime committee. His complaint is that there is no specific offence of fraud on the statute book.

Fraudsters operate in as many as half a dozen jurisdictions. The police must prove the case separately in each to stand a chance of securing a conviction in the UK alone. If the case falls down anywhere, the chances are that once again the person walks, very often to enjoy the proceeds of his crimes.

So juries are having to consider complicated and, in many cases, inappropriate charges — false accounting, making misleading statements, or conspiracy to defraud. The police want a single charge on the books; the opportunity may come soon in the form of a European Union initiative.

A convention, shortly to be ratified by heads of government, allows for a common definition of what constitutes EU fraud to be translated into the criminal laws of member states. The convention might be usefully

extended to any jurisdiction, for the first time putting the offence of fraud where it belongs — on statute books internationally.

Scotch and water a powerful brew

□ THERE are only two reasons why one utility should want to buy another. One is to abuse even greater monopoly power, and no one would want to do that, would they? The other is to sack large numbers of people and use the resulting cost savings to boost profits.

ScottishPower has shown itself well down the second track at Southern Water. Much was made at the time of the bid that length of time, or at least to show further rapid growth before anything goes wrong. Why does this sort of price make one so nervous? Could it be because Citigate was created eight years ago out of one of those ghostly schisms to which such people businesses are so vulnerable?

Carlton targets pay-TV as next area of growth

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications, the ITV company with the Central and London weekday franchises, said yesterday that it will target the pay-TV market as its next growth area.

Carlton's strategy to focus on subscription channels was unveiled one week after it paid £85 million for Westcountry Television, the ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. The deal made it the largest ITV company and left it with little room to expand in the commercial broadcasting market. Office of Fair Trading guidelines prevent TV companies from controlling more than 25 per cent of total TV airtime sales. This stopped Carlton from launching takeover bids for larger players, such as HTV and MAI.

Michael Green, chairman, said: "Free and pay-television channels should not be seen as competitors; they are complementary businesses. Free television is driven by the need to deliver mass audiences to subscribers; pay TV by the need to sign up subscribers. Carlton wants to establish a significant presence in both



markets." Carlton has already launched two pay channels, Carlton Select and Carlton Food Network; on cable in Britain and has interests in new subscription services in France, India and Singapore. Carlton would not provide details of its plans for the

US shareholder buys Ashbourne

By ERIC REGULY

AN AMERICAN company became the second largest nursing home group in Britain yesterday with the purchase of Ashbourne.

Sun Healthcare of New Mexico, through Exeler, its British subsidiary, agreed to pay 177p a share for the 70.5 per cent of Ashbourne that it does not already own. The offer values Ashbourne at £95 million.

The offer represents a premium of almost 30 per cent to Ashbourne's share price on November 22, when Ashbourne revealed it was in bid talks. The shares closed up 14p to 175p.

The acquisition comes shortly after Sun Healthcare agreed to pay £13.5 million for

Tempus, page 28

Citigate to join stock market

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CITIGATE Communications Group, the financial public relations and marketing firm, is to join the stock market through a reverse takeover by Incepta, a smaller but quoted sales promotion and direct marketing company (Morag Preston writes).

Incepta's all-share deal will value Citigate at about £29 million.

David Wright, Citigate's chief executive, will hold the same post at the enlarged business, while Graham Green, Incepta's chief executive, will be Mr Wright's deputy.

Citigate's clients include Granada, JP Morgan Worldwide, UBS in New York, and LucasVarity.

Incepta will finance its purchase by issuing up to 133 million shares. The size of the deal prompted Incepta to suspend trading in its shares at 214p.

Kingfisher hails autumn success

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths to B&Q retailing group, yesterday revealed strong autumn sales figures that bode well for a prosperous Christmas.

In the three months to November 2, like-for-like sales in the group — excluding shops opened since last year — rose 7.5 per cent. Total sales, including new shops, were 13 per cent ahead at £1.3 billion.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, hailed the figures as encouraging and said they were "achieved in competitive markets where value for money is crucial to the customer".

Woolworths sales for the period were 9.4 per cent ahead, to £324 million. The company has modernised 117 stores around the country, and those stores saw sales rise by an average 22 per cent.

The only blot on Kingfisher's copybook was Darty, the French electricals market leader, where like-for-like sales grew just 0.4 per cent to £26 million. Kingfisher shares rose 14p to 654p.

Tempus, page 28

TLG blames European conditions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TLG, the lighting group, yesterday blamed difficult market conditions across Europe as it unveiled a 27 per cent fall in interim profits to £8.3 million. TLG said in September that half-time profits to September 30 would be £8.5 million (£1.4 million).

Hamish Bryce, chairman, expects profit improvement programmes to give savings of around £1.5 million in the second half. In the first half, UK operating profit fell from £4.6 million to £2.8 million, while in the rest of Europe it fell from £5.9 million to £4.3 million.

New contracts won included the relighting of Prague airport, tunnel lighting in Croatia and for the Great Belt Bridge in Denmark, the world's longest suspension bridge.

Fully diluted earnings per share were 2.9p (4p). The interim has been held at 14p, payable on February 14.

Give your New Year a brighter start with the CIM Diploma.

If fine-tuning your marketing skills to enhance career opportunities is your New Year's resolution, you could fulfil it by gaining the CIM Diploma at Manchester Business School.

This internationally recognised qualification will serve to improve your standing in the world of business and gain you membership into Europe's largest professional marketing institution: the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Selection onto the intensive 5-weekend course is based on experience, not qualification. As there are only a limited number of places on offer you will need to act soon or you could be making the same resolution next year.

For your information pack contact Leo Reilly on Tel: 0161-275 6361 or Fax: 0161-275 6362. Manchester Business School, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PP. Internet: Email: leor@mba.ac.uk WWW: <http://www.mbs.ac.uk>

The Chartered Institute of Marketing

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

STERLING INDUSTRIES PLC

(Registered in England No. 289544)

Ordinary shares of 2½p

each fully paid.

5½ per cent

Cumulative First Preference Shares

of £1 each fully paid.

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with paragraph 140 (A) of the Company's Articles of Association, it is the intention that, following the expiry of the period of three months after the date of publication of this advertisement, the Company will sell the shares of members (or shares to which persons are entitled by virtue of transmission on death or bankruptcy) if and provided that during a period of 12 years at least three dividends in respect of the shares have become payable and no dividend during that period has been claimed by the members (or persons so entitled by transmission or bankruptcy).

D H Blunn, Company Secretary, Cozier House, 1 Thomas More Street, London E1 8AR

complaints
real customers
airline loyalty
schemes
to our
company?

“ travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flights”

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL GREEN

Swiss rush for CU shares revives takeover rumours

An avalanche of Swiss buying sent shares of Commercial Union climbing close to the year's high. The shares again came under the takeover spotlight and by the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands.

The price advanced 8½p to 669½p, just 8p shy of its peak. The high turnover raised a few eyebrows with market-makers, who only normally quote a price in 50,000 shares at a time. It was also the origin of the buying which attracted attention. Much of it was Swiss. Commercial Union has been tipped as a takeover target for years. Allianz, the German insurer, is a name often mentioned. Last night Allianz refused to comment.

Yesterday BAT Industries was added to the list after reports suggesting that the group had abandoned plans to hive off its financial services arm, which includes Eagle Star, Farmers in the US and Allied Hamro from its tobacco interests.

BAT Industries retreated 3½p to 469½p on those reports. The City would be pleased to see such a demerger. Brokers are worried about continuing litigation in the US relating to tobacco related diseases which has helped to depress the price this year. It has dropped from a peak of 585p.

The bloodbath that had been anticipated in London after the overnight sell-off in New York failed to materialise. In the face of heavy falls in the gils market, the FT-SE 100 index actually put up some stiff resistance. Down 23 points, at one stage, it reduced the deficit to 63.5 at 4,045.2 by the close. This was in spite of renewed losses for the Dow Jones average in New York morning trading.

ICI rose 13½p to 776½p on the back of some positive comments from NatWest Securities, the broker. The US chemical group Dupont has raised the price of titanium dioxide. ICI is also a big producer.

Ashbourne jumped 14p to 175p on news of the agreed bid from Sun Healthcare worth 177p a share.

Lloyds TSB firmed 1½p to 424½p in a falling market with the help of a profits upgrade from HSBC James Capel, the broker. Capel has cut its forecast for Albright & Wilson after the group announced it had lost a major customer. The shares ended



TGI's Nigel Hamilton and Peter Russell, finance director, saw shares mark time after an increase in half-year profits

6½p off 166p.

There was a late sell-off in British Aerospace with the price dropping 28½p to 1,121½p on news that the French Government had suspended the privatisation of Thomson. This follows the decision of the Privatisation Committee to reject the choice of Lagardere as preferred bidder for the group. British

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

Heavy turnover was noted in British Steel, up 14p to 164½p, with almost five million shares changing hands. Brokers say there is a short position in the options market which needs to be covered before expiry of the December series. There is also some talk that the group may be close to selling its aluminium operations.

Aerospace had teamed up with Lagardere to bid for Thomson.

Racial Electronics continued to recover from Monday's profits warning and subsequent profit setback on Tuesday. The shares ended the session 7p better at 243p. LucasVarity also firmed 3½p to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

Heavy turnover was noted in British Steel, up 14p to 164½p, with almost five million shares changing hands. Brokers say there is a short position in the options market which needs to be covered before expiry of the December series. There is also some talk that the group may be close to selling its aluminium operations.

Aerospace had teamed up with Lagardere to bid for Thomson.

Racial Electronics continued to recover from Monday's profits warning and subsequent profit setback on Tuesday. The shares ended the session 7p better at 243p. LucasVarity also firmed 3½p to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose of a number of businesses.

A bullish trading update from Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworth stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 11½p to 654p. Third-quarter sales had grown 7.5 per cent, which pleased analysts who immediately began upgrading their full-year estimates. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the bro-

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344½p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the figure up to 237½p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

to dispose

'US retreat

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

US accolade
for Lloyd's

A CHANGE of heart from across the pond, where David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, has been hailed "insurance leader of the year". A number of British companies have been invited to join the board of trustees at The College of Insurance at a celebratory dinner on January 30 in New York. What a turnaround to hear the US command a chairman of Lloyd's of London for his "outstanding leadership in meeting the challenges of rebuilding and renewing Lloyd's". Makes a change from all the lawsuits.

THE latest person to leave Pannure Gordon since the takeover by Westdeutsche Landesbank is Christopher Wilkinson. The former joint head of corporate finance is on gardening leave, as of last Friday, before he heads off to join Kleinwort Benson.

Sack on offer

BROWN & ROOT, responsible for the Ealing refuse service, ran away with the "Scrooge of the Year" award yesterday from the GMB union. The US company earned the accolade after presenting 400 refuse collectors with the choice of a £1,500 pay cut or the sack. So far, the GMB has distributed 100,000 bright orange refuse sacks to Ealing residents — with the slogan "Sack Brown & Root not your workforce" — which a GMB Santa Clause will pick up tomorrow.



Buttoned up
A MARRIAGE made in the costume department... Angels & Berman has bought Wig Creations for about £100,000. Since 1936, Angels has been providing costumes for theatre productions, and latterly for makers of TV programmes and films, while Wig Creations topped off the cast of *Star Wars*. The two companies are expected to join hands under one roof at the central office of Angels in Cambridge Circus, London.

How we tick

YET another lengthy questionnaire lands on my desk, this time from Image Survey International. In its quest for a "vital British point of view", the market research company that is owned by Taloustukkum Oy, based in Finland, offers a strange reward for filling in the numerous boxes. I am still deliberating whether to go for the information pack on the traditions of the sauna, accompanied with genuine Finnish sauna soap, or the traditional Finnish lingonberry conserve, fresh from England's green forests.

Money men from Warburgs, Merrill Lynch, Salomon and Credit Lyonnais, to name but a hungry few, turned up in a state of high anticipation to last night's investor evening at Berkeley Playhouse. The coyly named table dancing club, London's first, has been inundated with cheques. Be warned — rolls of film from the Dover Street event are already in circulation.

MORAG PRESTON

A most unusual case is being prepared for the High Court. In it, the Government will sue itself in the hope that it can get out of a ruling made by its own watchdog. The Government's higher purpose is to save taxpayers' money. If it wins — or should that read loses — it will heretically keep down the pensions of 80,000 relatively low-paid workers, many of whose working lives it has already wrecked in the cause of a theoretical experiment.

The notice issued the day after the Budget was eagerly headed "Government offers to pay legal costs in NBC pensions case". Via the usual written parliamentary question, Sir George Young, Transport Secretary, offered public funds (within limits to pay the legal costs of National Bus Company pension fund trustees, should they wish to ask the High Court whether the Government should repay the surplus from an NBC pension fund. That surplus is now reckoned to be worth £200 million.

The letter conveying Sir George's offer gives the game away. It is sent from the Department of Transport, Marsham Street, to Andrew Murray, chief trustee, care of the Department of Transport, Marsham Street. Mr Murray is a senior DoT civil servant, one of whose duties was to act as trustee for the long-defunct fund.

National Bus was the state-owned English bus network. Between 1985 and 1988, it was privatised in an unusual way. NBC was broken into 80 small pieces, many sold to management for peanuts. The pension funds and the company were wound up in

By George, a £200m court case threatens company pensions



GRAHAM
SEARJANT

1990-91, when the DoT took over residual assets and liabilities.

As we now know, the bus experiment was largely a waste of time and public money. The pieces were to inhabit a bright new world of free and wholesome competition. Instead, a handful of monopolistic firms have painstakingly been put back together by takeover bids or failures, thus occasionally to behaviour that a fed-up Monopolies and Mergers Commission once described as "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

If taxpayers got a bad deal, bus workers fared worse. Over eight years, the MMC found that bus drivers' pay fell an average 12 per cent in real terms. The National Audit Office found that proceeds of privatisation were so low that the biggest return came from the Government pocketing the surpluses on NBC pension funds. No wonder Francis Wheeler, a Lancashire busworker since retired on £170 a month, complained to the former ombudsman in 1991 after the DoT pocketed £168 million.

In September this year Julian Farrand, the new ombudsman, directed the trustees to take, without delay, all practicable steps to obtain the return of monies paid from the scheme's fund in breach of trust plus interest. There is no appeal from the ombudsman except on a point of law. Mr Murray asked the DoT for its proposals. He did not receive a cheque by return.

Normally, in such a case, Dr Farrand would direct the company or employer to pay up. The DoT would then have had a month to appeal. But the ombudsman only received that power in April 1991, a month after Mr Wheeler's complaint. So the Government has arranged to take an action

against itself via a new trustee supplied by the Official Solicitor, in what Sir George hopes will be "as co-operative and speedy manner as possible". Oddly, this prevents the ombudsman from defending his judgment as party to the case.

Why appoint a watchdog or regulator if you do not accept his findings, as ministers constantly advise business people to do? Perhaps the Treasury thinks that Dr Farrand, though seemingly a sound man, became crazed with his powers and set himself up as a Robin Hood of the pensions forest. But no. Dr Farrand was appointed because of his previous record as insurance ombudsman Peter Lilley, Social Services Secretary, wanted an active champion at a time when confidence in occupational pensions was at a dismal low.

The ombudsman complained in his last annual report of rising delays and expense because too many people were appealing, no doubt on the advice of the lawyers whose opinions his rulings rejected. There are 44 court appeals outstanding. Sir George now says "the department's accounting officer would need to know conclusive reasons for making the payment". If an ombudsman's

direction is not enough authority to pay public money, anyone in the private sector will surely be advised not to meet an award before appealing.

Like many a grasping 1980s employer, the Government just wants the surplus. People are being paid secure pensions, rails Sir George. Why should they also get "the windfall, from public money, that repayment of the surplus would represent"?

Dr Farrand's judgment explains why. When National Bus was broken up and the scheme wound up, ministers refused to guarantee members' pension rights in annuities purchased, even though actuaries said the fund had healthy surplus. Instead, the state company board gave the trustees an ultimatum. It would stop contributions until the surplus disappeared, unless they settled for a slightly cheaper version of preserved benefits and changed the trust deed so that any surplus in winding-up would go to the company instead of members. No one who has been one will be surprised that the trustees caved in to such heavy pressure. Dr Farrand ruled that NBC had breached its trust.

The ombudsman recently won a seemingly similar case over a Hillsdown pension scheme. Mr Justice Knox found that the company put undue pressure on trustees to change the rules so that it could pocket a surplus. Hillsdown merely damaged its already dim image. If the Government avoids repayment, the ultimate loser will be the occupational pension scheme movement it is so keen to promote.

Philip Bassett analyses the issues at the first ministerial summit of the WTO in Singapore

Free traders pursue the great prize

Government ministers, their advisers and business organisation officials from around the world will today begin packing their bags to head for Singapore with the aim of setting clear priorities for global free trade.

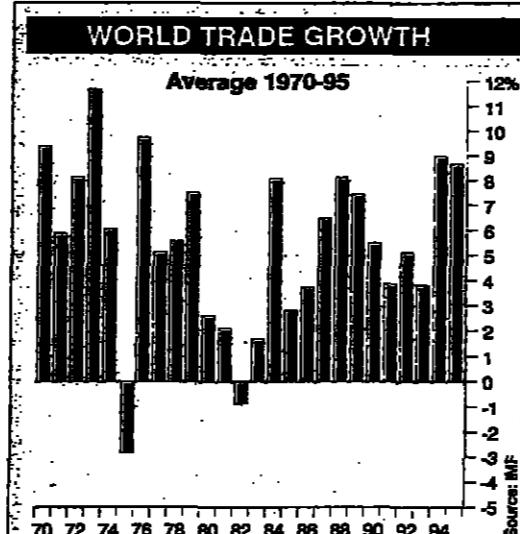
For British companies Singapore may seem more than half a world away from their own concerns. But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, says: "Free trade is the essential underpinning. Open markets create opportunities for growth, investment and employment.

"They keep up the competitive pressure on firms and improve efficiency. They give exporting firms the potential to increase sales and to take advantage of economies of scale. At home, they mean lower prices and greater choice."

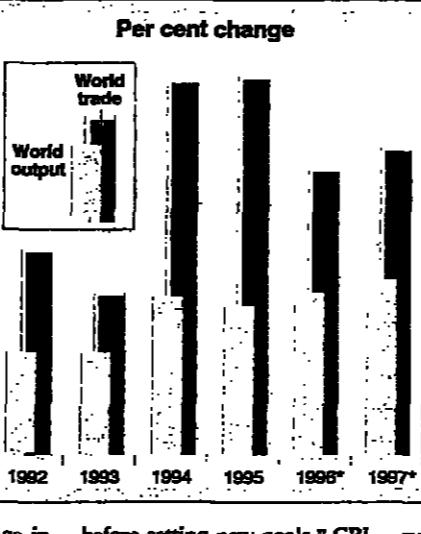
Mr Lang, who faced close questioning on free trade in the Commons yesterday, will lead the UK's delegation to the first ministerial summit of the World Trade Organisation — the international body provides for agreement on trade relations between 150 countries.

The WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), but differs significantly from it. It is a permanently staffed body, not just little more than a set of rules. It also has a wider remit, covering areas such as services and intellectual property as well as trade in goods.

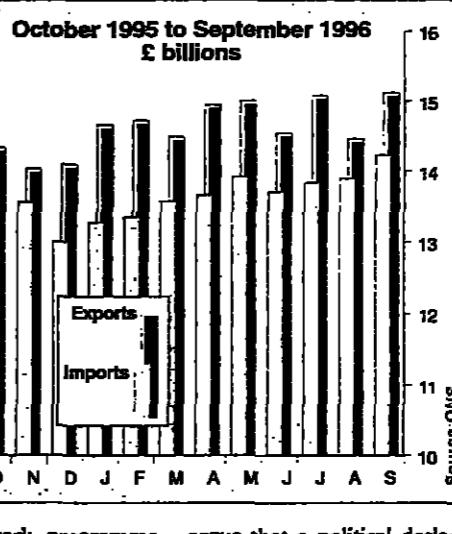
Based in Geneva, the WTO was formed on January 1 last year as one of the outcomes of the seven-year "Uruguay round" of trade talks. It continued the pattern since Gatt was set up in 1947 of reducing trade



WORLD OUTPUT AND TRADE



IMPORTS AND EXPORTS



protection at borders by cutting tariffs. The Uruguay round is set to lead to a 40 per cent cut in developed countries' tariffs on industrial production. While the Uruguay round barely touched some key areas like agricultural protectionism, its inclusion of services is seen as vital, and UK ministers like Mr Lang are fond of making far-reaching claims for it that ten years after its completion, its effect could boost world trade by up to 24 per cent, and world incomes by more than \$500 billion annually.

In overall terms, as the illustrations indicate, world trade has over the past decade grown faster than world output, fuelled by trade liberalisation and particularly the development of regional liberalisation arrangements, such as the European single market — probably the single most ambitious liberalisation package in the world. While both the IMF and the OECD are forecasting a fall in world trade growth this year, they see it accelerating modestly next year and after.

Singapore will see a number of clashes, but a fundamental one is between countries which want to see a consolidation of the Uruguay round, and others which want further progress.

Britain is divided: the Government wants to push on, but world trade has to hold fire.

Mr Lang says: "Some countries have said that the digestion of the Uruguay round results is all they can cope with. I want to make very clear that it is not enough. We must drive the agenda forward." In a strategy paper to the Government, the CBI said: "Business needs pragmatic liberalisation, which means consolidating existing achievements

before setting new goals." CBI leaders are wary about the objectives already flagged by Mr Lang: a new work programme for the WTO, a new trade round at the end of the century, to be completed by 2010, and full global free trade by 2020. Business leaders believe that such specific dates may prove counterproductive in the slow consensual dance of world trade negotiations.

Privately, UK ministers accept that little immediate progress towards these goals will be made in Singapore, though in a pre-Singapore conference today Mr Lang will highlight the kind of liberalisation that he would like the world to emulate, such as privatisation. But Britain will press hard in Singapore on a number of other issues: if a new and

substantial work programme is not obtainable, ministers believe that the WTO conference will build on President Clinton's recent deal with 18 Asia Pacific countries and strike a new liberalising agreement on information technology.

Britain wants to see two other outcomes: progress on talks to liberalise basic telecommunications, where talks are set to conclude in February, and no progress at all on what is likely to be the most contentious issue at Singapore: international labour standards.

First raised by the US, with the support of the European Union, as far back as 1987, the idea of a social clause, under which trade deals and sanctions would be linked to minimum employment standards, is highly controversial.

Those in favour, including the US, Norway and the EU, argue that a political declaration on minimum labour standards is vital to maintain support for a system of multilateral trade in industrialised countries where many employees feel under threat from foreign low-wage competition.

Other vexed issues include trade and the environment, American feet-dragging over financial services and slow progress on textiles and agriculture. WTO members are also anguishing over the growth of bilateral regional trade arrangements and the potential impact of new WTO members, such as China, Taiwan and Russia.

Business in Britain is cautious about "overstretching" the WTO, insisting to the Government that the WTO's work must be "realistic and achievable". Singapore will see some hard talking, tough bargaining and devious manipulating as countries angle for positions. As Mr Lang says: "The pursuit of free trade is never easy. But the prize is great."

Adding a touch of fizz to the Christmas office party

Morag Preston checks out the scenes and themes for a bash



Companies are keen to ensure party night is one to remember

The office Christmas party is the boss's chance to thank his staff in style. Outside the office, however, colleagues can be at their most critical.

A tray of indifferent vol-au-vents, or a three-course meal with mundane conversation, is meagre fuel for a successful next year. So, in a desperate bid to win loyalty, companies are taking every opportunity to make sure that theirs is a night to remember.

Twenty-four hours after the news of Nick Leeson's huge losses broke, Barings was on the phone to Planit Events, the London party organiser, to confirm that its Christmas party would go ahead.

Simmons & Simmons, NatWest Markets, Coopers & Lybrand, Charterhouse, Société Générale and Merrill Lynch have since followed suit, hosting staff parties on the site of the former Spitalfields market. Run by Will and Di Bailey, a husband and wife team, this year's party theme is Venetian masquerade. "It's like going to a play — it's extremely theatrical," Mr Bailey says.

Selling the idea of hosting a party for 1,500 on the site of a former market as opposed to the comfort of one of the Park Lane hotels was not easy. "Venues like these have a reputation — if anything goes wrong they can easily blame the hotel," says Mr Bailey, who organised a May Ball for 1,700 during his student days at Cirencester. "Numbers excite me, they never frighten me," he boasts after 15 years celebrating the festive season at the Grosvenor House.

He puts down the success of his parties to their widespread

appeal. "It all sounds great that you're going to the chairman next to the postbox and that they're going to get on for two hours over dinner," he says. "But by the time the dancing starts, they're in no mood to enjoy themselves so they go to the bar, have far too much to drink, and then you get problems." Instead, Planit spends £150,000 every season, setting up bars, buffets, entertainers, dodgems and dance floors. Guests are whizzed by taxi from work to marquee and a welcoming glass of buck's fizz. Some head straight for the dodgers. "They're a wonderful ice-breaker," says Mr Bailey, adding that John Bolsover, then Baring chief executive, could not be prised from them. Planit's events are

all inclusive. For £45 a head, guests are fed (3,000 chickens a season) and can help themselves to any amount of wine or beer (6,000 gallons a season). There is also a pay bar for those who prefer spirits. Occasionally a gatecrasher or "ruthian" has to be ejected. One excited employee climbed a palm tree at an Arabian Nights party and tried to set it alight. Worst of all, says Mr Bailey, was the year that a company forgot to deliver the beer for a party for De Beers; it turned up two hours later.

Increasing the tax limit for staff entertainment from £50 to £75 last year has made an enormous difference, says Mr Bailey. "It gives us a lot more scope and companies have a lot more choice." So far themes have included pantomime and circus. Treasure Island is pencilled in for next year.

Between November 28 and December 20, Planit Events will host a party every night. In February it will start taking bookings for next year. By the millennium, the Baileys hope to be catering for parties of a quarter of a million people; they are opening a site half a mile from Liverpool Street station.

Since the company started

at the end of the recession, organising parties for about 800 people, it has watched the competition creep up. Christmas Events, The Ultimate Experience, and Elegant Days, whose themes have included "The Night it Snowed in Rio" and "Gatecrash the Kremlin", all organise gigantic office get-togethers.

Plain-Speaking Home Insurance

Renewing your Home Insurance in December or January?

UP TO
£25 OFF +
1st year's
Buildings premiums

UP TO
32% OFF
Home contents
premiums

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender and we'll give you £25 off your 1st year's premium. What's more, if you take out

contents insurance with Prudential at the same time, you will receive a 15% discount, plus there's a further 20% off your buildings and contents premium if you're aged 50 or over.

Find out how much you could save.
Call now for a free quote. PLUS a FREE home security video.



Call Prudential on 0800 300 300

Lines are open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday and 10am to 3pm Sunday.
For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded.
Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote reference GAD 178

MORAG PRESTON

Williams completes disposals

BY CLARE STEWART

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial group, has completed its disposal programme with the £360 million sale of 15 UK building products businesses, including well-known brands such as Rawplugs and Swish.

The sale will eliminate Williams' net borrowings, and a substantial acquisition spree now looks likely.

The businesses sold off include Amdega and Valor gas fires as well as Rawplugs and Swish. They have been acquired by a management buyout backed by a venture capital team led by Canover Investments.

The sale will result in an exceptional profit of £90 million. Williams is to reinvest £57 million in the group, and will retain a 26 per cent stake in the new company, which is to be called Newmond.

Roger Carr, Williams' chief executive, said the deal had achieved an excellent price. "It represents an exit multiple of

17 times and 1.4 times sales." The disposal, which had been expected, completes Williams' restructuring. Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, said: "The sale clearly demonstrates our commitment to focusing on businesses with international potential."

The 15 businesses, which employ 3,000 people, last year generated sales of £266 million with profits before tax of £32 million.

Mike Davies, a main board director of Williams, is heading the management buyout. On completion of the deal, he said 70 senior managers will have a combined stake of 15 per cent. The venture capital group, which is investing £55 million, will hold 59 per cent. Mr Carr ruled out further disposals.

City analysts praised the deal but trimmed their 1997 profit forecasts to around £250 million. Williams' shares closed up 5p at 344 1/2 p.

Tempus, page 28



Alan Elliot, chairman of Blick, is retaining plans for £2m spending on organic growth

Blick at slowest for six years

BY FRASER NELSON

THE ABSENCE of an autumn boom held back profits at Blick, which assembles clocking systems, radio pagers and security cameras, resulting in the slowest growth rate for six years. Blick said that no improvement was imminent.

The company, chaired by Alan Elliot, said the sales surge which normally happens in August failed to

materialise in the year to September 30. This left pre-tax profits only 8 per cent up at £15.3 million on sales 13 per cent up to £56.8 million.

A final of 9.5p, due April 2, makes 14p for the year (13p). The City had expected slightly worse after Blick's profits warning in October, and its shares rose to 354p yesterday, from a four-year 349p low.

The results were buoyed from a first-time £1.57 million from PAC International, the swipe-card access company which Blick bought for £1.4 million in January. However, the money to fund the deal forced its total loan to £23 million (£12.4 million), taking gearing to 97 per cent. Blick still plans a record £2 million spend on organic growth this year.

Confident Vardon in shape

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in Vardon, the leisure group, jumped 7 1/2p to 88p yesterday after the company revealed that second-half trading had exceeded expectations.

Vardon said that the health and fitness division had performed especially well but that all its businesses had benefited from the improvement in consumer confidence. Membership income from the health and fitness division, which includes the Metropolitan Club, acquired for £40 million in July, rose 22 per cent.

The attractions division, which includes sites such as the London Dungeon and the National Sea Life Centre, enjoyed a 4 per cent increase in the number of visitors. Vardon said: "A management reorganisation in the division was complete and it would be expanding the London Dungeon site now that Jubilee Line work had finished."

Admissions to the company's bingo clubs were flat, on a like-for-like basis, against a background of a general decline in the sector. Revenues rose 4 per cent and the company said that improvement in first-half performance had been maintained.

Fisher nets P&O tankers for £38m

JAMES FISHER AND SONS, the shipping and port services company, is acquiring P&O Tankships Holdings, part of P&O's bulk shipping division for a total of £38.8 million. The consideration comprises a cash payment of £19.2 million and the assumption of debts of £19.6 million. The purchase will be partly funded by a one-for-one rights issue of new shares at 120p each. Existing shares were suspended at 145p yesterday, pending shareholder approval of the acquisition at an extraordinary meeting on December 27.

In 1995 P&O Tankships, which operates 13 ships, earned operating profits of £2.6 million on turnover of £41.8 million. In the nine months to September 30, operating profits were £2.64 million on turnover of £22.4 million. James Fisher has forecast a final dividend of 15p a share, lifting the total to 2.5p (2p). The company said that trading since the end of June had been encouraging.

TGI increases dividend

PRE-TAX profits at TGI, the loudspeaker systems group, rose 24 per cent to £1 million in the half-year to September 30 and the interim dividend is increased to 1.15p from 1p. Earnings rose to 3.9p a share from 3.3p. The company, best known for its Tamnoy speakers, said the launch of new products augured well for the peak Christmas selling season. TGI hopes to sign a contract to supply speakers to Peugeot, the French carmaker, shortly.

Jobs boost in Newport

KYUSHU Matsushita Electric of Japan yesterday announced expansion plans at Newport, South Wales. The company is investing £11 million and creating 100 new jobs to make a new line of digitally enhanced mobile phones. The move will also safeguard the company's existing 110 workers. 100 jobs will also be created in the insurance sector in Newport after HSBC Gibbs announced expansion plans in the town.

Hadleigh up by 45%

HADLEIGH, a maker of industrial storage tanks, improved its interim pre-tax profits by 45 per cent to £953,000. Sales in the six months to September 30 were 19 per cent higher at £15.2 million. Operating profits of just short of £1 million represented an improved return on sales of 6.5 per cent. Hadleigh has no cash of £1.4 million, and is continuing to invest in its manufacturing facilities. The interim dividend, to be paid on January 10, rises 29 per cent to 2.25p a share.

Victoria seeks to buy

VICTORIA Carpet Holdings, which makes Axminster carpets, reported a pre-tax profit of £2 million for the six months to September 30, a jump from only £22,000 last year. Most of the improvement came from a £1.8 million insurance payout on a fire at its Castlemaine spinning mill in Australia. Operating profits improved 10 per cent to £400,000. The company is seeking acquisitions in the UK and expects borrowings to rise. There is no interim dividend.

Leigh suffers decline

LEIGH INTERESTS, the waste management company, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £3.6 million from £4.2 million in the six months to September 28. The fall was accounted for by a £260,000 exceptional profit on the sale of Leigh's Hartlepool depot. Turnover fell to £51 million from £60.6 million and earnings per share were 3.6p a share (4.4p). Leigh will pay an unchanged interim dividend of 1.25p a share on January 30.

Calluna rights issue

CALLUNA, the miniature disk drive manufacturer, is raising £4.7 million through a rights issue to fund the development of a new disk drive range. New shares are offered at 50p each, on the basis of two new shares for every 11 held. Existing shares fell 5p to 53p yesterday. The company also reported an increase in losses to £2 million from £1.6 million in the half-year to September 30. Losses were 3.7p a share (2.9p loss). Again there is no interim dividend.

Coutts & Co

Notice of Interest Rates
for Private Clients
effective from 4th December 1996

	gross interest rate p.a.	gross compounded annual rate
Current Account with Cash Management Option and Reserve Account*		
£100,000+	4.25%	4.31%
£50,000-£99,999	3.75%	3.80%
£20,000-£49,999	3.00%	3.03%
£5,000-£19,999	2.50%	2.52%
Three Month Reserve Account* (Also available to Business Clients)		
£50,000+	5.25%	5.35%
£25,000-£49,999	4.25%	4.31%
£10,000-£24,999	4.00%	4.06%
7 Day Notice Deposit Account	1.00%	-1.00%
TESSA*	6.375%	6.52%
Charity TESSA*	5.75%	5.875%

*Interest is paid quarterly. Interest is paid half-yearly.

- Interest is payable on reserve account balances below the minimum level at a gross rate of 1% p.a. (Gross C.A.R. 1%).
- Interest will be paid after deducting tax (where applicable) at the prescribed rate, subject to status for tax purposes.
- The gross compounded annual rate is the rate where gross interest payments are retained on the account during the year.
- We are able to place sterling and currency with the Money Markets. All rates are subject to variation.



440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS
Telephone: 0171-753 1000

AMAZING COMPACT PRICE.

COMPAQ
INTEL PENTIUM COLOUR NOTEBOOK

**SAVE
£450**
WAS £1449

**STN
COLOUR
DISPLAY**

COMPAQ
THE WORLD'S
NO.1 PC
MANUFACTURER

50 STORES NATIONWIDE CALL
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE 0990 225599

SUPERSTORES AT

CHOTON
GLENROTHES
GATESHEAD
LONDON CITY

46 NEW STORES WITHIN
OFFICE WORLD

LONDON - BIRMINGHAM - CARDIFF - EDINBURGH - GLASGOW - LIVERPOOL - NEWCASTLE - NOTTINGHAM - SHEFFIELD - STOKE ON TRENT - WATFORD

ASLETON TEL: 01252 220777

BALFOUR TEL: 01252 220777

BIRMINGHAM TEL: 0121 212 2565

BLAISEFIELD TEL: 01243 402444

BOLTON TEL: 0121 223 1000

BOSTON TEL: 01205 250166

CARLISLE TEL: 01223 333238

CHELMSFORD TEL: 01263 222777

COVENTRY TEL: 0243 220777

DURHAM TEL: 01202 220777

EDINBURGH TEL: 0131 555 6666

GLASGOW TEL: 0141 555 6666

LEEDS TEL: 0113 243 5666

LIVERPOOL TEL: 0151 223 2222

LONDON - GLENROTHES TEL: 0131 200 4000

LONDON - NEWCASTLE TEL: 0191 220 1000

LONDON - SHEFFIELD TEL: 0113 220 0000

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL: 01295 220777

LONDON - WYKESFIELD TEL: 01253 220777

LONDON - YORK TEL: 01904 220777

LONDON - STOKE ON TRENT TEL: 01782 220777

LONDON - WATFORD TEL: 01992 220777

LONDON - WORCESTER TEL:

ACCOUNTANCY

Bank on sound supervision

David Mallett points to a need for some forceful application by supervisors of the banking rulebook

Just for now, banking supervision is of more than usual interest, with the Governor of the Bank of England appearing before the Commons Treasury Committee as his supervisors roll out recommendations of the Arthur Andersen report and the review of banking supervision.

Twenty-five years ago, banking supervision was a visit from a man in a top hat who asked a few questions. Ten years ago, the management of regulatory relationships would not have been high on a list of a bank's tasks. Today, they observe regulatory requirements punctiliously and seek constructive supervisory relationships.

I realised supervision was a serious business soon after joining the Bank's embryonic supervisory team in 1975. But then, banking transactions were simpler, and there were organisational and management continuity, checks and balances and well-oiled procedures. Nevertheless, failures of the mid-1970s were a watershed, with bankers getting it so wrong that they not only lost their own bank but put their country's system at risk.

The changes at the Bank relate to supervisory standards, processes and aims,

systematic risk assessment, stronger supervisory tools, reinforcing the supervisory team and quality assurance.

The Deputy Governor got to the heart of the process in the first issue of *Financial Stability Review* since the changes, saying: "Management competence is a crucial ingredient of sound banking. Supervisors must know senior management well enough to be able to make informed judgments about their competence. That cannot be done by rulebook-based examiners focusing on compliance."

He acknowledges that it risks charges of "cronyism, the cosy chats, the old school tie attitude" but in my experience there is none of that now and there was none during my time at the Bank. However, if this regulatory tool is to be used, the Bank must think hard about what is going on at the top of banks.

The key is still the right top team, the right direction and the right culture. However, recent articles in the *Financial Regulator* show that the debate about banking supervision is only beginning.

Thomas Hoenig argues that



David Mallett shows the supervision debate is just beginning

new activities and financial instruments mean that the traditional approach will not work. He suggests a two-tier system where those engaged in complex activities are safeguarded by secure payments systems and lower inter-bank risk but give up access to government safety nets and

deposit protection in return for less regulation. Regulators would concentrate on traditional banks, serving the wider public.

Michael Taylor offers four options: greater emphasis on assessing risk management systems; more emphasis on market disciplines, arising

from greater disclosure; Mr Hoenig's radical approach underwriting banks with private sector "cross-guarantees".

Charles Goodhart records the expense of close and detailed supervision and that bank failures are generally not caused by the failed control mechanisms but the failure to operate them. He acknowledges the quality of management is crucial but suggests that because it is subjective and without objective measure, it is difficult for supervisors to condition their judgments on it.

I am not sure I agree. Every chairman and every chief executive makes judgments about the quality of the board and top management.

They remove poor performers and those unwilling to live by the company's risk appetite and controls. Perhaps then, the possibility of a forceful application by the supervisors of the Banking Act rules and its own guidelines and some courageous judgment calls, made by supervisors, could mean that the Bank would not have to return to the Treasury Committee to explain another bank failure.

□ David Mallett is group financial controller of Standard Chartered and co-author of *Banking: An Industry Accounting and Auditing Guide* (E&Y, Accountancy Books, PO Box 620, Milton Keynes; telephone 01908 248000).

accounting technicians. It has been widely regarded as one of the profession's great successes. All six bodies are represented on its board. One of the representatives is Professor Mike Harvey, a past president of the certified accountants.

Imagine the AAT's amazement when last week the certified accountants gave it a day's notice of the fact that it was going to set up a rival. "Unprofessional" is the least of the epithets that have been flying about.

ROBERT BRUCE

Innovation in citation

AT THE launch of Ernst & Young's report and accounts there was much talk of its new global initiative called "Audit Innovation". This is due to be rolled out to clients next year. But a few have already been used in relation to Hilton's executive vice-president for development, one David Wilson, who until a few years back was an E&Y partner?

Surplus account

THERE can be few accountants who could claim to have

appeared in a makeshift play in the House of Lords in the aftermath of a Budget speech. Step forward reluctant thespian Tony de Guingand, Liffe's director of finance. He appeared as the Franciscan monk Luca Pacioli, the inventor of double-entry bookkeeping, in a play devised by Robert Bittlestone, the managing director of Metapraxis, for the consultancy's Christmas party. It was a lively perfor-

mance though we still don't understand why a monk appeared in dog-collar and surplice.

Model rift

UNTIL last week the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) was the model of accountancy profession co-operation. All six UK bodies sponsored the AAT, which provides a qualification for

accounting technicians. It has been widely regarded as one of the profession's great successes. All six bodies are represented on its board. One of the representatives is Professor Mike Harvey, a past president of the certified accountants.

Imagine the AAT's amazement when last week the certified accountants gave it a day's notice of the fact that it was going to set up a rival. "Unprofessional" is the least of the epithets that have been flying about.

ROBERT BRUCE

al fiefdoms and a strange, and soon to be abandoned, "general partnership".

The result is that it is hard to compare E&Y and KPMG. Take remuneration. KPMG pulled in the consultant Heidrick & Struggles to calculate a notional executive remuneration figure, to which were added pension contributions and "proprietorship profit". E&Y has, more simply, shown the profit share, the pension contribution and the interest partners receive on their capital in the firm. Even this hardly gives an accurate figure. Most partners, particularly younger ones, will have a net borrowing position on their capital in the firm.

They will have borrowed around £100,000 from a bank and will be paying interest on it all, says Land, base rate plus one and a quarter point. The partnership pays interest back on this capital to partners of base rate plus one point. So, showing interest paid to partners alone does not tell the full story.

In E&Y, the bulk of the partners earned a basic profit share of £100,000 to £200,000. The equivalent figure for KPMG was rather less. But that is largely because we are trying to compare apples with railway stations. You cannot make the sort of comparisons taken for granted in, say, the retail business.

One thing that is clear, though, is that the traditions of the firm continue. In the old Whitney Murray days, partnership earnings did not stretch from a hugely-paid senior partner down to a lowly-paid junior partner. There was a bunching of similarly-paid partners and no great disparity from top to bottom. That seems to be continuing. The figure for KPMG's senior partner, Col-

in Sharman, of £740,000 is quite dramatic against Nick Land's relatively modest £420,000.

What is now needed is for as many of the other firms as possible to show a bit of courage and produce their own reports and accounts. The only way current confusion can be sorted out is by the normal process of any system of disclosure. The more information the outside world is shown, the better it will be analysed and understood. That process will shape the form and substance of future disclosures. Nick Land said: "We have sought to fudge nothing," which is an unusual thing for an accountant to say. With future changes in legal structures for professional firms and change looming on litigation, it is a principle that other senior partners will have to embrace.

Comparability and no fudge, please

THE revolution that has given us a report and accounts from two of the "Big Six" accountancy firms was supposed to make things clearer. This week's publication of figures from Ernst & Young is a considerable improvement on the report produced by KPMG back in January.

However, what none of this has done is make the substance of the top accountancy firms, as a group, clearer to the outside world. If anything, the picture is getting murkier. This year we have had something approaching full accounts from KPMG and E&Y, a glossy report with a few paragraphs of figures hidden away in the back from Coopers & Lybrand, basic fee-income figures from Arthur Andersen and from Deloitte & Touche, and a deadly silence and no figures of any sort from Price Waterhouse.

There are three pressures on firms to publish. The general expectation of the public is there. The Government has dropped hints that if it does come up with a formula to allow limited liability partnerships, a quid pro quo would be full disclosure. And there is the third — and most compelling — reason, cited by Nick Land, E&Y's unfeasibly youthful senior partner. If you are effectively running a change management programme within the firm and emphasising openness, you can hardly keep the financial figures secret.

In the past, there was an annual league table for the "Big Six" and medium-size firms. It was rough and ready. Figures were restated to a common year-end. Peculiar inclusions and exclusions distorted them. And they showed only fee income. There was no word on profitability. But once KPMG went public, the others decided to abandon the league table.

So, if anything, we now have less information, certainly less comparable information. But these are early days. With firms such as Stoy Hayward and, tomorrow, Pannell Kerr Forster publishing figures too, the movement is on its way. Sooner rather than later, all firms wanting a significant role in the market will publish full figures.

We can only hope that, by then, someone will have sorted out a common basis for them to do so. E&Y was at pains to point out that its remuneration figures were much more truthful than those of KPMG earlier in the year because E&Y is an integrated national partnership, whereas KPMG still has regional



ROBERT BRUCE

BRITAIN'S INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS THE ECONOMY



Technology has always been at the heart of the aerospace industry, and the Airbus family of aircraft is no exception.

In just 25 years a wide range of sophisticated aircraft has been developed, each successive model involving the steady application of modern technology.

As a result, Europe's Airbus partnership, of which British Aerospace is an important member, has grown from nothing to being one of the world's two leading aircraft manufacturers, and has captured over a third of the entire market for large civil airliners. Over 2,000 Airbus aircraft have been sold to airlines around the globe.

This success story has created a whole industry. In Britain, the Airbus programmes actively support 25,000 jobs in over 300 companies, and contribute £1 billion a year to the trade balance. These high-value-added, wealth creating aircraft programmes account for more than 1.5 percent of Britain's total manufacturing sales abroad.

Britain is reaping the rewards from investing in research over the years. Through a close partnership between government and industry, continuing development of our expertise in technology will enable Airbus to build further on today's success, multiplying the handsome dividends the programmes are paying to the economy and to jobs in the UK.

AIRBUS. A GREAT BRITISH SUCCESS THE WORLD OVER

BRITISH AEROSPACE AIRBUS LIMITED, NEW FILTON HOUSE, BRISTOL BS9 7AR



My Hen stock
has great
liquidity.



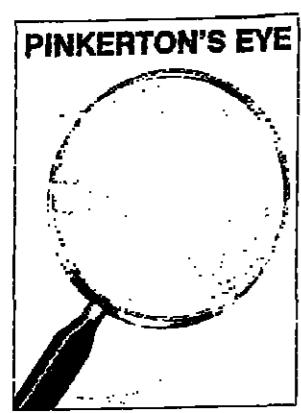
Famously smooth, with a subtle blend of flavours—a real asset in your drinks portfolio.

A most
Gratifying
Ale.



Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

Ale.
Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

LOW RISK

TRAVELLERS are cautioned to maintain a low profile in The Gambia during the election period until mid-January. Police in Thailand have given a warning that gangsters in Pataya are robbing and killing tourists after they have been drugged by prostitutes.

Moderate Risk

Political violence is reported in Accra, Ghana, as the December 7 elections approach. In Mexico the Revolutionary Army of Popular Insurgents has begun operations.

HIGH RISK

Last month five members of a family were killed in São Paulo in Brazil. This takes the number of murders this year in the city to 162. A curfew has been imposed on Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, because of the army mutiny. In Colombia it is estimated there are an average of three kidnappings a day in a rapidly rising crime rate. Fighting in northeast Zaire continues as Tutsi rebels expand their front by routing Zairean troops. The defeated army has been raping and looting as it retreats.

EXTREME RISK

Air routes overflying Afghanistan should be avoided after reports that the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban is using Stinger surface to air missiles. Violence in Algeria is expected to intensify after voters ratified a new constitution on November 28 prohibiting political parties based on religion and ethnicity. Travellers are advised to avoid Angola because of violent crime and possible political-military instability. Daylight robberies have been reported in the capital Luanda and foreign nationals are subject to arbitrary detention. • Pinkerton 081-424 8884

UK basks in late autumn sun

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE OF the sunniest Novembers ever recorded has given a countrywide autumn boost to Britain's already booming tourism industry. Official figures show that despite the recent run of cold, damp and windy days, there has rarely been so much sun in November. From Scotland to Cornwall, hoteliers, holiday cottage owners and tourism attractions benefited as thousands of families rushed to take advantage of the perfect weather for walks in the country or along deserted beaches.

The West Country Tourist Board, for example, says that the number of people making inquiries and booking short-break holidays leapt by 23 per cent compared with last November. A tourist board spokesman said: "Hotels throughout the region had a busy month. The good weather obviously helped to convince people that they should spend time out and about."

The National Trust said that bookings for its 230 holiday cottages in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were up by 10 per cent. Country Holidays, the UK's biggest holiday cottage company, with more than 4,000 properties, said that lettings were 11 per cent up on last year.

The cause of the rush to the countryside appears to have been the surprising amount of sunshine between the autumn showers. The absence of penetrating frosts and, until recently, strong winds also meant that trees retained their leaves and kept their autumn colours for longer than usual.

The trust added: "There has been an increasing demand



Country hotels across Britain report thousands of extra bookings as families take advantage of perfect weather conditions for walking trips

for short breaks; it seems people have discovered that there is something to do in Britain, even in November."

Even the Meteorological Office in London was surprised by the statistics. A forecaster said: "There was well above the average amount of sunshine right across the country from Scotland to the South East. Temperatures were close

to the average for the time of

year and, though it was wet, the rain tended to fall at night, so there was more sun during the day."

In the South East the Met Office reported that sunshine for November was 50 per cent above average and rainfall was 60 per cent above average.

The Ramblers' Association said: "It was perfect weather for walking. In the summer

our 400 groups do more evening walks, but we have just as many during the day in the autumn and winter. This year, with light crisp frosts and sunshine between the showers, was ideal for getting out into the country."

Now the association has organised the Festival of Winter Walks throughout Britain from Boxing Day to New Year's Day in the hope that the

good weather will continue.

Country Holidays said that the Lake District, the Cotswolds, and the Peak District were particularly popular in November, with holidaymakers eagerly booking cottages with open fires from £60 for a three-day break.

The National Trust said that the demand for short breaks had proved particularly strong during November. A

National Trust spokesman commented: "We had a huge increase in the number of people ringing on a Thursday when they saw the weather forecast and asking what was still available for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

The Met Office predicts that this coming weekend will also prove ideal for short breaks in the British countryside.

Hamlet's tomb foils airport expansion

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AND GLEN GUNNIN

PLANS to extend the terminal at one of Europe's fastest-growing airports have been halted by the remains of the nobleman on whom Shakespeare is believed to have based Hamlet.

According to legend, one of six protected burial mounds alongside the terminal buildings at Billund in Jutland contains the bones of Amlet, a Danish King who lived many years before Christ yet whose exploits were so remarkable they reached the ears of Shakespeare.

The Danish historian Saxon, who lived between 1190 and 1210, recorded the story of Prince Amlet, who was at the centre of an extraordinary royal intrigue that resulted in his being sent to England on a false mission which was supposed to have resulted in his death. But he survived, and after many adventures he married the English King's daughter, before returning to Denmark to defeat the conspirators and become King.

The only Danish town then known to the outside world was Helsingør, which provided the name for the castle in Hamlet. After his death, King Amlet was buried with five of his courtiers near Billund.

The site, now a protected Danish monument, was discovered by labourers in 1896, who uncovered a splendid gold bracelet believed to have been worn by Amlet.

Billund has a population of only 8,000 but its airport became one of the most important in northern Europe after Maersk, the Danish private airline, developed it as a "hub", providing an interchange for flights throughout the region and a growing number of services to Britain. Tens of thousands of children also use the airport on their way to the nearby Legoland theme park.

Once the airport had outgrown its capacity of two million passengers a year, the authority wanted to build a new terminal adjoining the existing one. That would have encroached on the tombs, however, so the authority has been ordered to build the new 500-seat terminal on the opposite side of the runway at a cost of £75 million.

Maersk says that it needs the new terminal to expand its scheduled services still further, but has decided it must not even attempt to disturb the legend of Amlet, preferring instead to name its recently improved business-class lounge at the airport the "King Amlet".

Adventure holiday centres win new safety licences

BY TONY DAWE

THE first licences for outdoor activity centres, under a new law introduced to reassure parents that their children will be safe on adventure holidays, will be announced next month. Inspectors from the newly formed Adventure Activities Licensing Authority have visited scores of centres and have approved safety standards at 50, ranging from large ones run by local councils to a mountaineering holiday run by one man.

The safety measures come after the Dorset canoeing tragedy in 1993, in which four teenagers from a school party died in Lyme Bay during a trip organised by a private activity centre. The new law requires commercial centres that provide caving, climbing, trekking and watersports activities for youngsters under 18 to hold a licence.

About 1,000 centres are thought to fall within the scope of the law. Most have applied for a licence and are undergoing inspection.

John Walsh-Heron, the chief executive of the licensing authority, says: "The safety standards in practice in the organisations we have already inspected are on the whole

quite good, but we shall be taking down some centres and advising the people who run them on the improvements they need to make."

Mr Walsh-Heron has been impressed by the number of voluntary organisations, including the Youth Hostels Association and Scouting groups, which have asked to be licensed, although they are not covered by the law.

He believes that a voluntary scheme should be introduced to run in conjunction with the statutory system. "If organisations want to prove they are



The new rules cover watersports, caving and climbing

New disabled law 'will boost tourism'

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

THE British travel industry may be missing out on business worth more than £6 billion a year because of its attitude towards disabled holidaymakers, according to the English Tourist Board.

But new legislation which came into force this week making it unlawful to discriminate against the disabled could force the industry to rethink its approach.

Already a group of leading hotel chains, including Thistle, Inter-Continental, Hilton and Novotel, have formed a group called the Hoteliers Forum in an attempt to improve accessibility and attitudes towards disabled guests.

Robert Peel, chief executive of Thistle, says: "We plan by the year 2000 to have one in every 50 rooms suitable for the disabled. But I would like to see greater awareness of the needs of people with disabilities."

The new legislation says that disabled people have right of access in three major areas: service, information and premises. "This means that refusing to serve customers with disabilities or providing them with second-rate services will be illegal," says Tim Bartlett, chief executive of the ETB.

Mr Bartlett says businesses "that plan to provide a better service to disabled visitors could release about £6 billion worth of new money into the

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

- Three aspects of Jamaica
- Stephen Clarence in Mysore
- Jill Crawshay in the Maldives, plus Zanzibar
- Britain's greatest rail journey
- Travel Tips

Lisbon & Porto

£138

with 2 nights free
accommodation in 3 star hotel

Portugaline
0171 630 9223

All flights are on scheduled services. Bookings and departures by 18th December 1996

*Price is per person. 2 adults must travel together, twin occupancy 3-star hotel. 600m off road stay of a Saturday night. Subject to availability. Contact Tours Ltd, ATOL 1996. Book early.

ADVERTISE CALL
1481 1989

FLY

EVER
CSNE

131 133 343

AIRWAYS

CHRISTMAS SEAT SALES
FOR FLORIDA
ORLANDO
TAMPA
MIAMI
DEPARTURES
APRIL 1997

ZAN

JUST
AMERICA

Tanck Tours
Motorhomes

£200

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

NINE HAMPERS OF PORT TO BE WON

Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, *The Times* is offering you the chance to win not nine drummers drumming but nine exclusive hampers of Cockburn's Special Reserve Port. Each hamper contains 12 bottles of the delicious drink and is worth around £200. Special Reserve is a mature port, made from a superior blend of quality grapes grown in the Douro valley vineyards in Portugal.

Matured in oak casks for four to five years before being bottled, it has a deep ruby colour and is guaranteed to bring warmth and feeling to any occasion.

whether enjoyed intimately with a partner, noisily with friends or privately in a moment of indulgence.

Cockburn's, purveyors of the finest quality port since 1815, is the only port company to make all its own wines and Special Reserve is part of its wide-ranging portfolio which includes vintage, tawny, white and LBV (late bottled vintage).

COCKBURN'S.

SPECIAL RESERVE

Always special... so why Reserve it?

PORT

Call 0891 200 361 with your answer to the question: Who wrote the following?

And is it true? And is it true:
This most tremendous tale of all
Seen in a stained-glass window's pane
A Baby in an ox's stall.

The maker of stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me

a) William Wordsworth

b) Sir John Betjeman c) William Blake

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES

Refusal of video certificate within UK margin of appreciation

Wingrove v United Kingdom

(Case 19/1995)

Before R. Bernhardt, President and Judges Thor Vilhjalmsson, L-E. Penit, J. De Meyer, J. M. Morello, Sir John Freeland, G. Mifsud Bonnici, D. Gouché and U. Löhmus

Registrar H. Penfold
Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney
Judgment November 25

The refusal by the British Board of Film Classification to grant a certificate for Mr Nigel Wingrove's video work *Visions of Ecstasy*, in conjunction with the statutory provisions making it a criminal offence to distribute a video work without such certificate, was justified as being necessary in a democratic society within the meaning of article 10.2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights held by seven votes to two that there had been no violation of the applicant's freedom of expression.

Article 10 provides:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

"The exercise of these free-

doms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Mr Wingrove wrote the script for and directed the making of an 18-minute video film entitled *Visions of Ecstasy* which concerned the life and writings of St Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth-century Carmelite nun who experienced powerful ecstatic visions of Jesus Christ.

He submitted the video to the British Board of Film Classification in order to obtain a certificate which would permit it to be sold, hired out or exhibited to the public. On September 18, 1989 the board rejected the application on the ground, inter alia, that the work would give rise to outrage at the unacceptable treatment of a sacred subject and that, while accepting that many people would find the video extremely distasteful, considered it unlikely that a reasonable and properly directed jury would convict.

The applicant received legal advice to the effect that his case was not suitable for judicial review.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on June 18, 1990, was declared admissible on March 8, 1994. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on January 10, 1995, in which it established the facts and said, by 14 votes to 2, that there had been a violation of article 10.

The applicant appealed to the Video Appeals Committee. In its

written submissions, the board

described the video film as depicting the erotic fantasies of a character referred to as St Teresa, involving both the crucified figure of Christ and the "Psyche of St Teresa", a female role. The applicant disputed the board's assertion that his video film was solely erotic in content.

The appeal was heard by a panel of five members on December 6 and 7, 1989. By a majority of three votes to two, the panel upheld the board's decision.

The majority considered the overall tone and spirit of the video to be indecent and had little doubt that its presentation would cause outrage to the feelings of Christians, who would reasonably look upon it as being contemptuous of the divinity of Christ. The minority, while accepting that many people would find the video extremely distasteful, considered it unlikely that a reasonable and properly directed jury would convict.

The board had acted within its power under section 4(1) of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

The officer of blasphemy could not, by its very nature, lend itself to precise legal definition. National authorities had therefore to be afforded a degree of flexibility in assessing whether the facts of a particular case fell within that definition.

There was no general uncertainty or disagreement as to the definition of what constituted blasphemy. Having seen the video for itself, the Court was satisfied that the applicant could, with appropriate legal advice, reasonably direct his video to a wider audience.

The Court concluded that the refusal to grant a distribution certificate had been a violation of article 10.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

"The applicant complained of a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the Convention.

It was undisputed that the refusal by the British Board of Film Classification to grant a distribution certificate for *Visions of Ecstasy* constituted an infringement of the Convention.

A. Whether the interference was

prohibited by law.

The board had acted within its power under section 4(1) of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

The officer of blasphemy could not, by its very nature, lend itself to precise legal definition. National authorities had therefore to be afforded a degree of flexibility in assessing whether the facts of a particular case fell within that definition.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on June 18, 1990, was declared admissible on March 8, 1994. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on January 10, 1995, in which it established the facts and said, by 14 votes to 2, that there had been a violation of article 10.

The Court concluded that the refusal to grant a distribution certificate had been a violation of article 10.

C. Whether the interference was necessary given the breadth and open-endedness of the notion of blasphemy and the risks of arbitrary or excessive interference.

In those circumstances, it could not be said that blasphemy law did not afford adequate protection against arbitrary interference. The impinged restriction had therefore been "prescribed by law".

B. Whether the interference pursued a legitimate aim.

The aim of the interference entailed a violation of a provision of the Convention, the Court had to examine whether it was justified under article 10.2 as a restriction "prescribed by law", which pursued an aim that was legitimate under that provision and was "necessary in a democratic society".

A. Whether the interference was

prohibited by law.

The board had acted within its power under section 4(1) of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

The officer of blasphemy could not, by its very nature, lend itself to precise legal definition. National authorities had therefore to be afforded a degree of flexibility in assessing whether the facts of a particular case fell within that definition.

The fact that the law of blasphemy did not treat all religions on an equal footing did not detract from the legitimacy of the aim pursued in the present context. The Court concluded that the refusal to grant a distribution certificate had been a violation of article 10.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The public distribution of the video could therefore outrage and insult the feelings of believing Christians and constitute the offence of blasphemy.

The interference had been intended to protect against serious offence in their beliefs, but it had not afforded adequate protection against arbitrary interference.

The impinged restriction had therefore been "prescribed by law".

B. Whether the interference pursued a legitimate aim.

The aim of the interference entailed a violation of a provision of the Convention, the Court had to examine whether it was justified under article 10.2 as a restriction "prescribed by law", which pursued an aim that was legitimate under that provision and was "necessary in a democratic society".

A. Whether the interference was

prohibited by law.

The board had acted within its power under section 4(1) of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

The officer of blasphemy could not, by its very nature, lend itself to precise legal definition. National authorities had therefore to be afforded a degree of flexibility in assessing whether the facts of a particular case fell within that definition.

The fact that the law of blasphemy did not treat all religions on an equal footing did not detract from the legitimacy of the aim pursued in the present context. The Court concluded that the refusal to grant a distribution certificate had been a violation of article 10.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

The Court therefore held, Judges

De Meyer and Löhmus dissenting,

that the national authorities' margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10 of the Convention.

</



■ FILM 1

The Thanksgiving Day from hell is dissected in Jodie Foster's hectic *Home for the Holidays*



■ FILM 2

... while in *Jingle all the Way* Arnie Schwarzenegger crashes into the Christmas season



■ FILM 3

From Spain, *The Day of the Beast* is a surreal black comedy about devil worship



■ FILM 4

... and Ireland in the late Seventies provides the setting for the genial *Last of the High Kings*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds some wheat in the chaff that is *Home for the Holidays*, but gives up on Schwarzenegger

The family as a nuclear device

Mom constantly smokes, and talks. Dad grabs her while she cooks and whirls her round to the strains of *It's Not Unusual*. Aunt Gladys is going batty. Sister Cynthia is a sour-faced prune. Your gay brother arrives, acts the pest and splatters the entire company carving the turkey. You yourself have a terrible cold and have just been fired from your art museum job. Happy holidays.

This is the scene in *Home for the Holidays*, Jodie Foster's second film as director. The holiday is Thanksgiving, which America celebrated last Thursday. In real life, if we were like Holly Hunter's heroine and forced inside such a dysfunctional household, we might well want to rush away screaming. At times some may feel the need to escape Foster's film too.

Perceptive moments are followed by rowdy excess. Anne Bancroft's mother of them all leans too much towards caricature, while Robert Downey Jr's gay prankster is annoying beyond the demands of the part. Then Geraldine Chaplin's batty aunt lets rip with a fart or an obscenity, and Charles Durning's father trains a lawn hose on two brawling brothers. It all gets to be too much.

In a film with so much hectic talk — the screenwriter is W.D. Richter, eccentric creator of the cult film *Buckaroo Banzai* — maybe it is not surprising that some of the best moments lie in quiet, visual observations. At Baltimore's airport, every phone booth is occupied by a sibling girding the loins for family trauma. Locked in a traffic jam with her family, Hunter's lonely single mother exchanges a beautiful, long-suffering glance with a total stranger, locked in the jam with his own tormentors.

Foster judges such little scenes well, although she fails to generate forward momentum to carry us over the bumps and grinds of an increasingly contrived plot. In this respect, *Little Man Tate*, her first directorial fling, was a more plausible piece of work, although *Holidays* can boast greater commercial appeal.

The cast alone ensures attention. Bancroft may chew the carpet, but she is undeniably funny as well, summoning the broad for dinner with the cheery cry: "Come, people are starving in the former Yugoslavia!" Downey is less rewarding, although at least the movie never pushes his gay character to the margins; Richter and Foster take a liberal view of family values.

Most other players have their moments, script permitting. But, as with most family celebrations, *Home for the Holidays* is best appreciated in small doses.

With *Jingle all the Way* we

move on to the next holiday down the line, Christmas. Don't confuse this with Christmas the religious festival: the movie must be Hollywood's biggest advertisement yet for seasonal consumer greed.

The plot rotates around Arnold Schwarzenegger's frantic attempts to buy the country's number one action toy, Turbo Man, for the son he

neglects the other 364 days of the year. In the process he

wrestles with a few commuting Santas, shatters a radio studio's glass door, and punches a reindeer in the face. He also

demonstrates that his knack for comedy is definitely not

improving with time.

Not that Arnie has been

encouraged to finesse his skills by the director, Brian Levant. This, after all, is the man who

has directed *Home for the Holidays*.

Home for the Holidays
Curzon West End
15, 102 mins
Hectic visit with a dysfunctional family

Jingle all the Way

Warner West End
PG, 88 mins
Schwarzenegger's Christmas cheer

The Day of the Beast

Metro, 15, 110 mins
Satanic anarchy from Spain

A Chinese Ghost Story

National Film Theatre
95 mins
Dishvelled Hong Kong fantasy

The Last of the High Kings

Warner West End
15, 104 mins
Pleasant yarn about coming of age

Feeling Minnesota

Virgin Trocadero
18, 98 mins
Unappealing low-life drama



Robert Downey Jr., Charles Durning and Holly Hunter talk turkey over the Thanksgiving dinner in Jodie Foster's *Home for the Holidays*

who wouldn't mind Turbo Man themselves; for the rest of us, the film makes us wish Christmas had never been invented.

If the thought of Schwarzenegger jingling away makes your toes curl, relief may come from *The Day of the Beast*, an anarchic Spanish romp by Alex de la Iglesia, previously responsible for the gorefest fantasy spoof *Action Mutante*. Imagine a Buñuel anti-clerical gibe crossbred with a gory midnight movie. In the opening minutes a falling church crucifix squishes a priest. The priest's younger colleague then sets off for Madrid to contact the Devil and try to avert the Anti-Christ's birth, due on Christmas Eve. First port of call: a heavy metal music shop.

By the end, de la Iglesia has roped into his comedy a fake TV Satanist, the Devil incarnate (a black, grinning ram), a giant neon advert for Schweppes, gory special effects, and much satire on Spanish society.

At first the fast pace is exhilarating, while Alex

Angulo's sober demeanour as the priest on a satanic mission does much to sharpen the humour. But the second half disintegrates, and the pleasing spectre of Buñuel fades under pressure from tedious set pieces and assorted narrative debris.

The images get no tidier in *Ching Siu-Tung's A Chinese Ghost Story*, a cultish but dishvelled Hong Kong production from 1987 that hurls together kung-fu high-jinks, gruesome comic horror and a traditional ghost story with no thought to intelligibility or tension.

The bulk of the frenzy centres on a haunted temple where a maladroit debt collector (Leslie Cheung, popular throughout the 1980s) falls into a lady ghost's charms. But all characters are fall-guys for the special effects team. Bodies fly through the air, corpses groan and crawl, while a monstrously huge, hairy tongue lashes through trees and makes a swish roll of

the hero. You need stamina, and possibly a warped mind, to survive this.

The Last of the High Kings

is a far more humane endeavour. This is a period coming-of-age story set in Ireland: goodness, did I hear you yawn? But David Keating, a new director, and his motley cast attack the material with enough vim and vigour to blow off most cobwebs.

Alongside a willingness to enjoy teenage pranks and puppy love, a taste for a little whimsy helps; for parents the 17-year-old hero boasts a fiercely nationalistic mother (Catherine O'Hara), wrapped up either in Guinness or Celtic myths, and an actor father (Gabriel Byrne) lost in the Bard.

The cast has its international interlopers: O'Hara is Canadian, while Jared Leto, the popular hero, hails from Louisiana. But the dialect coach has done good work, while the script and soundtrack evoke with ease the summer of 1977, when Dublin rocked to the music of Thin Lizzy and Elvis Presley died.

POP

Hip for the top

Audioweb
The Monarch, NW1

There are several distinctive features about Audioweb's music, notably the way McCann's bass playing and Max's drumming operate on the cusp of rock and reggae, while File deploys an arsenal of pedalboard effects to create anything and everything except a straight guitar sound.

But their ace in the hole is Sugar's extraordinary vocal range. Time and again, on numbers such as *Sleeper* and *Faker*, he starts off in a high, silky tone and then drops into gruff, tongue-twisting rap mode. Between songs, his molomouth patter is brash and confident — "This one's like Philips, years ahead" — if a little repetitive.

They end a brief set with *Drip Feed*, dedicated to their admirers the Stone Roses, and a rambling *Who are They*. Ambling offstage, the four musicians ignore calls for an encore. It is not the last audience that this unusually gifted, if still unpolished group will leave wanting more.

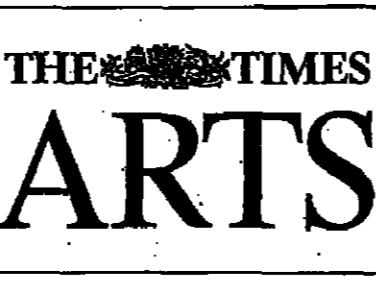
Geoff Brown



CHOICE 1
Fifty Howard Hodgkin paintings from the past 20 years go on show
VENUE: From today at the Hayward Gallery



CHOICE 2
Gabrielle Drake stars in Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*
VENUE: In preview, Royal Exchange, Manchester



NEW VIDEOS
Powerful kidnap drama with a modern twist: the Coen brothers' *Fargo* comes to the small screen



NEW CDs
Valery Gergiev conducts his thrilling Kirov Opera singers and orchestra in a Russian epic

LONDON

CLOUDS AND CLOUDS: The composer and French conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen today launches an international retrospective and celebration of The Music of György Ligeti. This year-long programme will consist of eight concerts, educational events and an exhibition at the Festival Hall before transferring abroad. In the first recital, at 6pm, Tebas Zimmermann plays Ligeti's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, the composer's Cello Sonata, played by David George. At 7.30pm, the Philharmonia Orchestra performs Ligeti's San Francisco Polyphony, Ligeti's Concerto, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4246, Tonight 8)

THE GABRIELI CONSORT AND PLAYERS: make a rare London appearance with a programme of debut with Handel's sacred masterpiece, *Messiah*, followed by a group of young soloists, including Dorothy Root, soprano, and Ruth Phillips, contralto. Charles Daniels, tenor, David Davies, bass. The conductor is Paul McCreesh. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-920 2200, Tonight 8)

HANOVERIAN CONCERTS: Two new exhibitions open today. Howard Hodgkin's Paintings is an exhibition of more than 50 of the artist's dense, vibrantly coloured oil paintings,

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Slovo

produced between 1975 and 1985. Art of the Masters: Works from the Princeton Collection comprises 200 works of art made by psychiatric patients, drawn from the collection of the German art historian and psychiatrist Hans Prinzhorn. At 7pm, Wigmore Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3144) Daily 10am-4pm, Tues and Weds until 8pm (closed Dec 24-26, Jan 11-12) From Friday 23/9

ELSEWHERE

HUDDERSFIELD: Tony Scarrett, who played DS Roach in TV's *The Bill*, stars in Terence Frethe's comedy, There's a Girl in My House, at the Huddersfield Playhouse, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3144) Daily 10am-4pm, Tues and Weds until 8pm (closed Dec 24-26, Jan 11-12) From Friday 23/9

MANCHESTER: Gabrielle Drake stars in the mysterious *Lady Windermere's Fan* at the Royal Exchange, Manchester. Johnson plays the prima donna who learns about sex, James Seaton and Simon Robson play two more than abstinent lords. Brahm Murray directs,

BOB KINGDOM: The man of several voices, and one-time one-man man in repertory: Dylan Thomas, *Requiem for a Friend* and *The Truman Capote Show*, tonight, at 8.30pm and 7.30pm, respectively, at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, M1 (0161-832 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, matinees, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, Sat 8pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tonight-Tues, 7.30pm; Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm)

FOR MURDER: Wile-telling thriller, written when phone lines were still new, and set in the old age of self-evident. Last week, Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-949 5070, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, matinees, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, Sat 8pm)

A DOLL'S HOUSE: Jessie McTeer stars the door in Anthony Page's production of the classic problem play. Comes to play with her smothering husband, with John Caird as Dr Rank. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-829 4011, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30pm)

I LICKED A SLUG'S DESIDERANT: Unprepossessing title for Jim

THEATRE GUIDE

Jessica Kogutson's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, return only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

Coniferous's latest two-hander, *Tim Potter and Maggie O'Neill*, is a broken man and a crack-addicted streetwalker. Royal Court Upstairs, Sloane, SW1 (0171-928 3000, Tues 7.30pm, Thurs and Sat, 8pm, Sat 8.30pm)

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR: Reopened from the start, the show after 56 years, the show back to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Gala, Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-928 3000, Tues 7.30pm, Weds and Sat, 8pm)

A MIDNIGHT NIGHT'S DREAM: Jonathan Miller returns to the British theatre after six years to direct a cast that includes Judi Dench, Sir Ian Holm, the Royal Opera's Peter Bayes and Peter Bayes as Bottom. Set designs by the Clow Brothers. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold on to his failing production of Miller's drama, *Death of a Salesman*, at the Lyceum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2200, Tues 7.30pm, Mon-Sat and Tues, 2.30pm)

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Alvin Armstrong plays the hollow man, determined to hold

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

Hambleton
airports
expands

■ **LOTTERY**
Will recipients of big lottery awards be able to raise matching funds from private donors?



■ **THEATRE**
The Beauty Queen of Leenane, the fine debut play by Martin McDonagh, comes into the West End

■ **THE TIMES**
ARTS



■ **MUSIC**
In Manchester Sir Colin Davis steers the LSO through James MacMillan's new orchestral work



■ **TOMORROW**
Tales from the great survivor: Diana Ross talks about the new direction in her music

Buddy, can you spare a few million?

Time is running out for those arts bodies which must match their lottery handouts or lose them. Andy Lavender reports on a hair-raising financial timetable

Christmas is a time for giving, and if you have a few million pounds to spare, this year your generosity will be more keenly sought than ever. You will probably be asked to bail out the nation's cultural *grands projets*, which need to raise millions very quickly if they are to go ahead.

This is a result of the requirements surrounding the award of National Lottery cash to the five "good causes". By law, each scheme must also raise an amount of "partnership funding" from local authorities, sponsorships, private donations and the like. In some cases the schedules are nail-bitingly precarious.

Next Wednesday the Millennium Exhibition Project reveals its business plan. The total cost for the jamboree at Greenwich is a projected £350 million (that's if you leave aside rumblings from the Labour Party and elsewhere that the actual costs could be at least double). A modest £150 million must be found from the private sector — by next spring.

As Mike Elrick, the exhibition's head of public relations, admits: "Nothing's committed at the moment. We are working to a tight schedule and everybody is aware of the clock ticking."

A day later, the Royal Opera House will launch its appeal for support for the redevelopment of its Covent Garden site. It needs to raise nearly £79 million to match its funding from the National Lottery, although it hasn't exactly been quick off the mark — its lottery award was announced 17 months ago. Some donations are already in place (the ROH declines to reveal how much) but Keith Cooper, the director of corporate affairs, observes that "there is a critical path where certain things can't happen unless the money is there".

Consider, too, the Tate's development of a new Gallery of Modern

Art on London's Banksy. Already £62 million from the Millennium Commission and English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration agency, is in place. In the 30 months since the decision to develop the site was announced, the Tate has raised a further £23 million. In the next few months it needs to show that a further £45 million will be forthcoming.

Lottery money has provided much-needed funds for arts and cultural projects, but has turned us into a nation of beggars and pleaders. It has also produced the most hair-raising financial timetables. Projects will doubtless fall behind schedule, but deadlines simply cannot be missed. More bizarrely, the funding mechanisms might make it difficult to spend the money that is now available.

Awards made by the Millennium Commission must be matched by funding from elsewhere. "There has to be a question-mark over whether the commission will be able to spend all the money it's got," one insider suggests. "It has £1.6 billion banked up. If it applies the 50 per cent rule, £1.6 billion has to be found from other sources by the year 2000. I cannot believe there is that amount floating around."

The Arts Council is upbeat about the situation. "We've made commitments of just under £600 million," says Margaret Bolton, the organisation's lottery communications director, "contributing to projects whose total costs are £1.4 billion. So partnership funding is over 57 per cent of the total, way above our minimum requirements."

Not that the monies are actually all in place. The Theatre Royal in Bath, for instance, needs to raise £340,000 towards refurbishment costs. Its reconstructed studio space will open in January. The theatre is still painstakingly edging towards its funding target. At the other end of the county, the Brewery Arts

Centre in Kendal, Cumbria, achieved its partnership funding of nearly £780,000 relatively easily. The projected rebuilding work has been put on hold, however, since the private trust which has provided the centre's core funding to date is withdrawing its support. In this instance, nearly £2 million of lottery money is in limbo. As lottery largesse is mostly restricted to capital projects, here is a classic case of a potentially gleaming venue with no wherewithal to keep running.

One imagines, too, that the

fundraisers are now besieging the same philanthropists and corpora-

tions. "We are all fishing in the same sea," says Dawn Austwick, project director of the Tate's Banksy development. "But people who want to give money to a modern gallery are different from those who want to give to the Royal Opera House or Sadler's Wells. We're pretty confident we're going to get there or thereabouts."

The fundraising strategy for the Banksy project has followed a classic path: targeting wealthy individuals and trusts before turning to companies and corporations.

Commercial organisations are generally unwilling to contribute to

wards capital costs — the

expenditure on bricks and mortar — and are more likely to sponsor an actual exhibition or event.

Chris Lever, director of communications at Sainsbury's, an established arts sponsor, admits that there is a keenly commercial aspect. "We wouldn't commit unless we were confident that we were joining a very successful and exciting enterprise that is going to strike a chord with a lot of people," he says. You can't argue with that. The trouble is that under the current legislation the private sector has a crucial role in cultural funding without any real obligation to fulfil it.

How might this extraordinary system be improved? In a pre-election period (or in any other, for that matter), you will only utter the phrase "corporation tax for culture" if you want to appear eccentric. But there are other ways of smoothing the fundraising process. For each of the next five years, for instance, the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation will supply £100,000 as partnership funding for selected applications to the new Arts 4 Everyone scheme — a modest but imaginative move which others might emulate.

And there are frequent calls for

the regulations governing the award of lottery cash to be applied more flexibly, so that certain projects might proceed with less partnership funding or perhaps none at all. There would be problems of selection, but a more measured strategy for the nation's cultural development would result. A spokesman at the Department of National Heritage observes that, since most organisations raise their money without difficulty, there are no plans to make any changes to the requirements. Meanwhile, the fundraisers go on whistling for cash, hoping that the yawning gaps in their budgets will be filled before Easter. Watch those spaces.

Bubbling Irish black comedy

The Beauty Queen of Leenane
Duke of York's

IMAGINE a blend of gigantic spider and Mr Toad dressed as a washerwoman, and you have the look of Anna Manahan's Mag, bunched and brooding in her awful green-grey parlour. But it is her wheeling, whining, selfish, callous treatment of the middle-aged daughter who resentfully sends her that leaves you feeling truly phobic. The poisonous symbiosis of parent and child has been an Irish theme since Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*; but seldom if ever have I seen the venom fizzing about the stage to better dramatic effect than in Martin McDonagh's debut play.

McDonagh deserves his recent award for the most promising dramatist of 1996 and his play merits its move from the Theatre Upstairs to the Royal Court's place-of-exile in WC2.

The piece combines human

shrewdness, a command of black comedy and a knack for sustaining tension to an extent astonishing in a writer in his mid-twenties. You itch to know whether Lloyd Hutchinson's affable Pato will lure Jane Brennan's Maureen from spinner isolation in the dour Irish outback. You may also catch yourself wondering if 20 years with her mother haven't turned her into a

woman worth avoiding. Feeding the old girl on a diet of lumpy Complan, plus biscuits as foul as the ones Beckett's Hamm shoves into the dustbins where he keeps his mother and father, is the least of Maureen's sins against the Fifth Commandment. You may well think that Mag's habit of dumping her urine into the kitchen sink deserves some such retaliation. But parental destructiveness goes on to breed filial violence.

Though I am not (I hope) in the business of revealing climaxes or denouements, I cannot resist pointing out that McDonagh has mastered the elementary dramatic skills and is unlikely to drop merrions of boiling fat or pokers

into the conversation early on without exploiting them later. Brennan's Maureen variably exudes frustration, anger, sexual yearning and, in her final moments, a glazed stupor worryingly reminiscent of the mother she has spent the evening mocking and hating. An objection to the play might be that Mag is less fully

explored. But if you learn nothing about her parents or her dead husband, Garry Hynes's production leaves you with a strong sense of the soul-destroying world outside. A village so drear that kicking a cow can result in a 20-year grudge is, after all, likely to breed monsters.

Nor is that all. Let the last

word go to Pato, who labours in England: "When it's there I am, it's here I wish I was; but when I'm here I am, it isn't there I want to be, but I know it isn't here. I want to be either." If McDonagh's play is about the difficulty of escaping a bad mother, it is also about escaping Mother Ireland. Given the precision, yet size of his horizons, can you doubt he is a talent to watch?

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE



DONALD COOPER

Anna Manahan as Mag and Jane Brennan as Maureen

CONCERTS: A religious work for the LSO; a trio of sisters; and carols in 18th-century style

Lament on the cross

NOT everyone who hears *The World's Ransoming* on the latest Shell-LSO National Tour will share the faith that inspired the work. Few, on the other hand, will fail to respond to the passion in James MacMillan's *Matundy* Thursday meditation, and fewer still will fail to recognise it.

The first in a series of three pieces commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and relating, as the composer puts it, "to the events and feelings of the Easter triduum", it drives its final message home with a percussive gesture as brutal as knocking large nails into a very solid piece of wood.

In musical terms, *The World's Ransoming* is a lament for cor anglais and orchestra based on plainsong melodies and a Bach chorale. The solo part — written specifically for the LSO's principal cor anglais, Christine Pendrill, who played in the first performance in July and who is inseparable from the present tour — is most expressively and beautifully written in a manner recalling, inevitably perhaps, the song of the swan on the waters of Tunnels. But that is confined largely to the outer sections. The middle section, though curiously lacking in a progressive impulse, is highly coloured and powerfully dramatic.

tic in a manner now recalling the religious paroxysms of Olivier Messiaen. It is no less characteristic of James MacMillan for that, and no less convincingly fervent.

The box-office compensation, which certainly proved useful in Manchester, was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Whether or not Sir Colin Davis has anything specific to say about that work, his approach seems to be to allow it to generate its own tensions rather than to impose preconceptions on it. If so, it worked most effectively from the oboe solo onwards in the first

movement, and in some of the more inward and eerie passages in the middle movements, but scarcely at all in the finale.

It was in the finale too that, in the Bridgewater Hall at least, Steven Isserlis's account of Schumann's Cello Concerto fell short of making the full-scale impact. The sound was just too slender at some crucial points in the construction. But compared with the exquisitely realised poetic aspects of the interpretation, the lack of weight mattered little.

GERALD LARNER

Indeed, the occasion was an informal one with Holman introducing the settings and the Parley of Instruments and Psalmody, a small choir, performing in an honest and slightly earnest manner that aptly reflected the style of the music. For much of the 18th century, the only carol widely accepted by the Anglican Church was *While Shepherds Watched* and, consequently, we were treated to a handful of settings of that text.

Anatole Choirs, which were introduced to improve standards of singing in church, were often supported by what-

Musical mismatch of temperament

THE Bekova Sisters, a piano trio from Kazakhstan, are to be congratulated on donating one of their rare South Bank performances for a concert in aid of the North London Hospice, which provides care free of charge to terminally-ill patients.

Little is heard of the sisters in London these days. Since the initial interest in their exotic escape from Soviet Kazakhstan nearly ten years ago, their playing alone has not succeeded in gripping the imagination in equal measure.

There is too little incentive to go out of one's way to listen to playing which can be so volatile and unresolving as that which the Queen Elizabeth Hall heard on Monday.

To choose such a popular programme as Haydn's *Czardas Rondo* Trio, Brahms's Op 114 Trio and Tchaikovsky's A minor Trio to invite both conscious and subconscious comparison in any musically-literate audience. The Bekovas' Haydn is shaped by generalised, old-style gentility which totally ignores the insights into details of balance, phrasing and articulation revealed by some two decades of period performance. It seldom rises above the anodyne.

Both here and in the

Brahms there was also an uneasy mismatch of musical temperament. Blood ties are no guarantee of successful musical chemistry, and the ardent cellist of Alia Bekova, the refined, circumspect violin of Elvira and the shallow-toned and pedestrian pianism of Eleonora sit awkwardly together.

The sisters were happier in the Tchaikovsky. But the hospice deserved better.

TESS KNIGHTON

HILARY FINCH

movement, and in some of the more inward and eerie passages in the middle movements, but scarcely at all in the finale.

It was in the finale too that, in the Bridgewater Hall at least, Steven Isserlis's account of Schumann's Cello Concerto fell short of making the full-scale impact. The sound was just too slender at some crucial points in the construction. But compared with the exquisitely realised poetic aspects of the interpretation, the lack of weight mattered little.

GERALD LARNER

Anatole Choirs, which were introduced to improve standards of singing in church, were often supported by what-

Presenting Christmas Video Classics

LULU
A cornucopia of this century's greatest singers from Caruso, Supervia, Tauber, Chaliapin to Callas and Sutherland. CD also available.

THEODORA
Carreras, Domingo and Natalie Cole live, singing a mixture of classical, devotional and popular Christmas songs. CD also available.

Filmed at the 1996 Glyndebourne Festival and broadcast by CHANNEL 4.

THE THREE MAGI
Award-winning programme of five modern dance pieces inspired and conceived by Sylvie Guillem and friends.

City Life
A documentary about the creation of the composition "City Life". Reich's homage to his home town, New York.

Alagna
The triumphant 1996 production from Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, featuring Roberto Alagna.

West End
The award-winning West End show with original cast. To be broadcast on BBC 2, Christmas 1996.

AVAILABLE NOW
FROM ALL GOOD STOCKISTS

Jeanette Winterson examines the remarkable endurance of an occult tool whose images refuse to be simply explained away



In Monmouth Street, London, an occult shop called *Mysteries* offers for sale more than one hundred different Tarot packs. Some of these packs are designs from Renaissance Italy. Others are 18th-century French. There is the famous 1910 British Rider deck, which for the first time illustrates the pip cards. There is the rather sinister Aleister Crowley dark magic version, and a multiplying number of New Age fantasy decks; these are often banal and badly drawn but they do indicate a continuing fascination with and market for the *Jeu et magie de Cartomancie*.

It was in France, enjoying in the 18th century its Age of Enlightenment, that the Italian trick-taking cards of Tarrochi began to be used for fortune-telling. Scrying and prediction were already popular, and occult theories of all kinds were as much talked about in fashionable circles as the radicalism of Rousseau and the advances of science. Then, as now, an overemphasis on rationalism and materialism, a world with man and not God as its likely centre, seems to have demanded a psychic compensation in a rush towards mysticism.

Of particular interest was the notion of ancient knowledge or intuition, which found a focus in Napoleonic Egyptomania (a phenomenon that was not dissimi-

Dealt a mystery by the magic hand of chance

A WICKED PACK OF CARDS The Origins of the Occult Tarot

By Michael Dummett, Ronald Decker and Thierry Depaulis
Duckworth, £35
ISBN 07156 2713 9

lar to the later Victorian obsession with India). Therefore, when a certain Court de Gebelin declared the Tarot deck to be nothing less than the lost book of Thoth, its future as an occult tool was assured.

The conundrum lies in the 22 trump cards never present before or since in ordinary playing card decks. In effect, there are three sets of seven, numbers one to 21; with *The Fool*, *Il Matto*, unnumbered and acting as a wild card through the deck. In a modern playing deck, only the joker reminds us of another history to the game.

What is the true history of the Tarot? Much as this book tries to explain it, we don't know. No matter how closely anyone tracks its journeys and disguises down the centuries, and no matter how soundly we debunk Egyptian and Cabalistic connections, and whispers about gypsy lore and luxurious explanations from the East, we are left with two

though the authors' ideas on what those meanings might have been are too glib.

When it comes to the possible secret meanings of the trumps, we find that the real purpose of this book is to demonstrate that none was ever intended, and that the subsequent occultism of the Tarot is a fraud, a delusion, a genuine mistake or just a hobby for the feeble-minded. Naturally enough then, the second question can only be answered negatively in so much as it is answered — or even asked at all.

I do not doubt, and it has been told elsewhere, just how much chicanery there has been around the Tarot. Many of its famous names have altered some of its symbols, rearranged the order of the trumps, and offered up startling visual interpretations of the original pictures. Much of what has been written about the Tarot since the 18th century is contradictory and waylaid with hocus-pocus.

Isn't that true of every religious or mystical impulse? If no one is bothering to reinvent the Christian faith any longer, that is probably a sign of its exhaustion. A spiritual idea that is still numinous, whatever we think of it, changes and develops; is now a heresy, is then a dogma, attracts new ideas, some banal, some profound. Above all, it survives.

I take Jung's view that whatever endures in the human psyche needs to be studied on its own terms and by its own rules, however unruly. It is no good trying to show us by laborious detail how silly we are to have kept Tarot alive as a psychic symbol. We have. Surely that is what matters?

There is plenty in this book about "mere intuition" and no feeling at all for why one might be able to use the Tarot intuitively. This is as odd as talking about meals one has never eaten: no amount of recipe reading or laboratory analysis of the ingredients can explain or explain away the final dish. If the style is dull it may be because the authors have never found the time to sit at table with a wicked pack of cards.

Jeanette Winterson's novel, *Gut Symmetries*, will be published next month by Granta.

Great footsteps followed

In 1936, W. H. Auden and Louis MacNeice visited Iceland, and collaborated on the wonderfully fluent and utterly delightful hodgepodge of prose, poetry and (strictly amateur) photography called *Letters from Iceland*, published the following year. It was actually a momentous book, both of its moment and going well beyond it. Sixty years on, it is still an unmixed pleasure to read.

Now, Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell, both avowed admirers of Auden's in particular, have been to Iceland — this time at the invitation of the BBC — partly as a homage, partly, I imagine, as a dare. I missed the programme, which went out on Radio 3 last year: here.

Michael Hofmann

MOON COUNTRY
Further Reports from Iceland
By Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell
Faber, £7.99
ISBN 0 571 17539 2

though, is the book, *Moon Country*, with a spectacular sapphire-and-ice cover.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there is no individual piece with the substance of Auden's *Letter to Lord Byron* or MacNeice's *Eclogue from Iceland*. In fact, there doesn't seem to be that much verse in the book, and what there is tends to be short, thin and (both senses) strained. Perhaps — and who could blame them? — the poets got cold feet. What does come through, though, is the lighter side of the project — the recording of fun, pleasure in one another's company, reaching out to a sympathetic audience.

The main vehicle for this is Armitage's diary of the trip. Dubbing himself Peterson and Maxwell Jameson d'Icelandaise, he describes in amusing if prefab prose the flying and driving and drinking and interviewing. When seasickness put him out of commission for the whole nine hours of a trawler trip, Max-



Good becoming moderate or poor, perhaps gale 8 later: southeast Iceland from *The Shipping Forecast*, by Mark Power (Zedra Cheetah Press, £19.95)

well gallantly takes over in approved style: "Jameson of the BBC. You've obviously got to start fishing in a few minutes, so how do you feel?"

Glyn Maxwell's main contribution is the really rather exhilarating verse play, *Harald and the Lonely Heart*. He has, for instance, a chorus of a

million young Icelanders — even though there are only a quarter of a million, all told! — hanging out in Reykjavik of a Friday night:

"There's nowhere to go in our capital town! It's here or it's better! It's here, hands down! We'll talk about chat about stuff about talk! By the light of the moon and the

light of the moon and the

light of the moon and the

managed to be both. Auden, addressing the shade of Yeats, said: "You were silly like us". Silliness isn't a problem, either then or now. But in the Thirties, they had at least the temporary conviction of their convictions. Not now.

I suppose this is the temper

of the times: we are debunk-

ing, fugitive, ingratiating, clever. Simon Armitage spots a three-volume *Ornithology of Iceland*, "which presumably doubled as a menu"; Maxwell's Greens — sounding like Red Indians — say: "Caveats bad, Cetaceans good". As far as it goes, it can't really be bettered.

In the natural sciences, no doubt, those who flout well-attested laws are rightly regarded as cranks. But in politics and ordinary life, it is the opposite error that distinguishes the crank: it is excessive faith in laws and methods derived from different disciplines, from natural science, engineering or economics — that marks out the Utopian mind in politics. Utopians are not those who rebel against laws. They are those who think they have found such laws: when in human affairs there are none.

In a droll turnabout, the Utopian mind has lately found a home on the Right. The ineluctable necessities of the market have replaced the inexorable laws of history which captivated an earlier generation of ideologues. Who could have foreseen that in the closing decades of the 20th century the world would be ruled by a species of conservative Utopianism?

Like the great 19th-century Russian liberal Alexander Herzen, whom he so admires, Berlin is suspicious of the very idea of perfection. His writings on political thought reflect this suspicion: in this volume's title essay and in another on *Political Judgment*, Berlin questions the common view that what distinguishes the Utopian mind in politics is its vain defiance of inescapable laws.

When ideas turn into their opposites

John Gray

THE SENSE OF REALITY
Studies in Ideas and Their History
By Isaiah Berlin
Edited by Henry Hardy
With an introduction by Patrick Gardiner
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6570 0

He may have had other reasons for turning to intellectual history. Abstract philosophical reasoning cannot capture in any system the varieties of human experience. Perhaps, in turning to the history of ideas, Berlin was only pursuing philosophy by other — and better — means.

By comparison with historians, dramatists and novelists, philosophers have not been notably good at understanding intractable conflict in hu-

man life. From Socrates onwards, they have succumbed to the idea that such conflict is — in the end — illusory. By contrast, Berlin's master-idea is that ethical conflicts — between uncombinable goods and unavoidable evils, between conflicting but equally valid claims of right — are real and ultimate. He does not greatly admire the project of theodicy, which is to represent the evils and tragedies of human life as necessary parts in a perfect whole.

Like the great 19th-century Russian liberal Alexander Herzen, whom he so admires, Berlin is suspicious of the very idea of perfection. His writings on political thought reflect this suspicion: in this volume's title essay and in another on *Political Judgment*, Berlin questions the common view that what distinguishes the Utopian mind in politics is its vain defiance of inescapable laws.

Yet a smattering of history suggests that the tenor in power of so doctrinaire a turn of mind is unlikely to be long. For anyone who reads these subtle, impassioned and playful essays, the ironies of our present condition will seem less unfamiliar, and more like unnumbered moments in the past when ideas have turned into their opposites.

Whatever R. S. 's condition is, there is no doubt that it has come about by being in Wales.

Over five decades he has

created an emotional corre-

spondence with its harsh land-

scape, adopted nationalism

and forced all through a nar-

row aperture. Racist attitudes sit alongside his search

for grace. As with Ezra Pound, whose fascist sympathies, rather than eclipsing his work, generated exigencies — so too with Thomas, whose Modernism clashes head-on with politi-

cal and — religious fundamen-

talism.

R. S. 's curacies terminated

in the Lleyn peninsula, where

the peasants suffer like God's

subjects are meant to. The

Welsh are the chosen race. But

no sooner does R. S. glimpse

Eden before the Fall — in the

mountains, in a bird of prey,

in a peasant at work — than it

is lost when an English tourist walks by.

His invective against Eng-

land has always been perple-

xing. He was married to an

upper-class Englishwoman

for 50 years, sent his son to

public school over the border

and wrote in the "thin" lan-

guage he so despises, while

castigating other Welsh writ-

Russell Celyn

Jones

FURIOUS
INTERIORS
Wales, R. S. Thomas
and God
By Justin Wintle
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255571 9

ers who work in English as having "sinned against their own nation". In 1990 he goes on record as saying that he will give no more interviews in English; then in 1995, when he is nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature, he writes praise poems for warriors like Owain Glyndwr.

These seem not so much contradictions as bald-faced hypocrites. But where the poetry is concerned, such tenacity was critical. Wintle argues that his work has depended on two negatives: that Wales is a lost nation, and a God beyond reach: *deus absconditus*.

Since the history of Wales is so vital to R. S. Wintle offers a summary of every prince and



Thomas nationalist

and every major event up until the end of the 20th century to have had an effect on Wales. And it is the 20th century R. S. blames for "destroying what was left of the Middle Ages in Wales". Wintle officiates: "R. S.'s love of Wales implies a history that in its simplicity never was." The Welsh have always collaborated in their assimilation, from the Norman Conquest to the American entertainment concatenation of our times.

In the final analysis, R. S. Thomas sits outside all movements and schools. His exactitude has as much to do with Latin phrasing and his reading of English poets as his deep knowledge of Welsh prosody. And despite his stance against the world, the world reads admiringly. *Furious Interiors* is a scholarly yet lucid biography of this major poet and it is hard to imagine a better one being written.

AUTHORS
Let Us Publish Your Book.
Most subjects considered including:
Religion, Biography, Children's
Stories, Poems, Fiction and Plays
Books
AVON BOOKS Ltd
1, Devonshire Studio,
400, Battersea Park Road,
London SW11 4LR

NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR WORK
400, BATTERSEA PARK ROAD,
London SW11 4LR, England

ADVERTISING WORLDWIDE
INTERCONNECTIONS LTD
1, Devonshire Studio,
400, Battersea Park Road,
London SW11 4LR, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

MINERVA PRESS
2, Cawdor Court, Ruislip,
London UB7 9DQ, England

Dressed not just to kill

Hardy Amies
admires the
splendid variety of
the soldier's dress
down the ages

This book is as beautifully tailored as are the uniforms it describes. It is as orderly as a military parade. It is composed of just under 300 pages, of which one third is given to the listing of the notes.

The author, Scott Hughes Myerly, is presumably a Harvard man. One gets the precision of words and the sensitive research we expect from an American academician.

Although writing about the military scene, with many aspects of which we have been brought up, there are some fascinating bits of information. Did you know that the word "tight", meaning drunk, is a tailor's slang expression that has survived from the early 19th century, equating the tightness of military dress with drunkenness?

It is interesting to read how powerful was the influence of the colonel of a regiment himself, particularly on the taste of the uniform. There was tremendous competition. Height requirements also influenced decisions on promotion. Promising or deserving soldiers were often prevented from attaining higher rank because commanders liked to promote tall, good-looking men. Fascinating it is to read that the expression "being dressed to the nines" originated in the impressive sartorial appearances of the Ninety-Ninth Foot of the 1850s.

Informative trouble is taken in describing all details of dress. There appears to have been no guidance from a War Office. But the King was the supreme commander. Interest in the details of the uniform varied with the Sovereigns. "The Royal Georges, especially, tended to put appearance before their troops' need for practical dress."

The book emphasises the difference between service and parade dress. Service dress became important during the Crimean War.

Otherwise the book is full of the most meticulous descriptions of parade dress. This, of course, interested the Regent, subsequently George IV. We all know how friendly he was with Beau Brummell.

We are told firmly that military dress does not concern itself with fashion and that the wearing of uniform is controlled by those who wield authority. The fact is that display was clearly helped by the horses. The long torso of the tall Guardsman looks undeniably splen-



In the 19th century, appearance was often put before the need for practical military dress: infantry of the Napoleonic era, circa 1810

did on a horse. The cavalry uniform was, of course, controlled by the sleeve of the traditional riding coat. The narrow shaped sleeve was cut high in the armhole, remaining neat when holding reins.

In his usual thorough way, our author does not neglect the infantry. It is stated that "Khaki" was introduced in 1849 for the East India Company unit. He can say that the British Army provided one of the best military shows in Europe. He also points out that the privates' pay of a shilling a day did not deter recruiting: the bait was clearly the attractive and seductive uniform. He quotes Jane Austen's Lydia Bennet, but not Mrs Bennet who herself recalls: "I remember the time I liked a red coat myself very well — and indeed so I do still in my heart."

Red coats do not stop him from telling of the need of drink to placate the other ranks. The rum ration was distributed every day before breakfast and "alcoholism was so widespread that those who did not drink were often ostracised by their fel-

BRITISH MILITARY SPECTACLE
From the Napoleonic Wars through the Crimea
By Scott Hughes Myerly
Harvard University Press, £23.50
ISBN 0 691 02349 4

lows". Such a statement is typical of the author's wish to present the Army warts and all. But the large picture is one of great splendour and use.

Use is illustrated by the description of riots in the chapter "Civil Disorder" — called in to help the police. It was sometimes found that other ranks sided with the rioters. But mostly the Army was an instrument of law and order. Its great weapon was display. But the discipline at its heart created the victories of the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars.

The martial and admired orderly life produced the Salvation Army — army, it is noted — and, for the young, the Boys' Brigade — brigade

noted. Even Mrs Beeton was bitten by the military bug. She informed her readers that — as with the commander of an army or the leader of any enterprise, so it is with a house — standing orders, inspections, orders for the day and regularity.

It is in his admiration for display that our painstaking author is at his best. He sees all parades as a show of power, arousing strong national pride. The Guards, headed by The Blues (the Royal Horse Guards), are the stars. Today a visit to Hyde Park, to the area between the Serpentine and the barracks, will reward you with a pang of pride at the sight of the gleaming breastplates and horsehair flowing from the helmets. On your way to the park you may have to wrestle with the crowds outside Buckingham Palace waiting to see the Changing of the Guard.

Funerals like that of the Duke of Wellington in 1852 were an inspiration. It interested me to have it pointed out that Queen Victoria requested in her will that she have a military funeral.

I fear I have produced inadequate evidence to prove to you that this is a most entertaining and scholarly work. Charm comes with the author's pleasure in anecdotes; for example, in describing the very high and tight collar which was at the neck of the body-fitting tunic, we are told that not only was this "stock" made of whalebone but sometimes of metal. It must at times have been uncomfortably tight. But we are also told that the soldiers liked it tight. It helped them to hold their heads up.

Regaled by the immaculate white breeches on the cover one cannot help wondering what was worn underneath. The venerable Cunningham's *The History of Underclothes* is not very good on military gear. Long pants certainly. "Y-fronted jockey shorts were a few years off. They would not do. There would be UPL. What's that? Ugly panty line, of course.

Sir Hardy Amies's The Englishman's Suit is published by Quartet, priced £14.

And Irish eyes were smiling

Raymond Seitz

THE GREENING OF THE WHITE HOUSE
By Conor O'Clery
Gill & Macmillan, £12.99
ISBN 0 7771 2491 6



Clinton and Adams meet in Falls Road, Belfast, 1995

This book is essential reading for every serious student of mustache diplomacy. The author, Conor O'Clery of *The Irish Times*, was the only Irish journalist accredited to the White House from 1992 to 1995, and he thus enjoyed a front row seat at the rolicking, long-running Gerry Adams Show.

With commendable dispassion, O'Clery reconstructs the interplay of Irish and American politics, and the triumph of Sinn Féin in the Clinton presidency. For many years, the responsible Irish lobby in America had distinguished between the democratic, constitutional parties in Northern Ireland and the advocates of violence. The Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress more or less lumped together Sinn Féin and the IRA. And Irish issues seemed pretty parochial when set within the great global context of the Cold War.

All this started to unravel in the 1992 presidential campaign when candidate Clinton made a series of sympathetic promises to the more vociferous East Coast supporters of Irish republicanism. Within a year of his inauguration, he

was called to account. After all, circumstances had changed. London and Dublin signed their joint declaration in December 1993, and Her Majesty's Government had already conducted secret exchanges with Sinn Féin.

But as O'Clery points out, the critical difference came with the cast of characters who assembled on the new Irish stage. Most important of these was John Hume, the SDLP leader, who vouched for the sincerity of Gerry Adams's newfound commitment to peace.

ANY publication by Alice Munro is cause for celebration: she is surely the mistress of her genre, the finest writer of short stories working in the English language today. In her *Selected Stories* (Chatto & Windus, £16.99, ISBN 0 7011 6521 9), Munro draws strength from the landscapes and history of her native Ontario and of British Columbia, and she conjures them in their absolute specificity.

This compendium gathers many of Munro's most memorable works, from early stories such as *Walker Brothers Cowboy*, about a child's shifting perception of her father in the Depression-ridden back roads of Ontario, to the subtle psychology of *Vandals*, a recent

Her small but perfect worlds

piece, in which young Liza and Warren, sent to check on the empty house of friends, destroy it. In *Lichen*, Stella's ex-husband David comes to visit with his girlfriend, Catherine, and with whispered details about the woman for whom he plans to leave Catherine. The tenderness and bitterness of the story's characters seep through their exchanges and linger after the story ends.

Munro, perhaps describes her own endeavour best

from the Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds.

In early 1994, Gerry Adams applied for an American visa. He was asked to renounce violence and to endorse the joint declaration. Failing on both counts, he received the visa anyway. The idea, it seems, was to bolster Adams in his bargaining with the IRA command, and indeed, a ceasefire was announced seven months later, though a ceasefire was already on the cards. From then on, Irish policy was taken over by the White House.

The *quo* of the first visa never produced its *quid*. Instead, Adams, like Oliver, asked for more. And he got it. Through the following months, the Clinton White House made one concession after another, often backing away from its own conditions, until Adams became the green apple of the Washington eye. "Time and again," writes O'Clery, "the Administration ceded to the demands of Adams's promoters on the grounds that to do otherwise would risk unravelling the process."

O'Clery's rendering of events is faithful and serious. But after describing Clinton's triumphal tour of Ireland, and the climactic Docklands bombing ten weeks later, his narrative trails off. In the end, O'Clery seems reluctant to draw the conclusion which his own book suggests.

And the first among these is a cardinal rule of diplomacy: don't give unless you get.

ing, unsentimental love." This, truly, is Munro's gift.

The only sadness about this volume is that it does not contain all of Munro's stories, and that it includes no previously unpublished work. Nor does it offer any introduction by the author. Munro is present only in her unique style, which exemplifies the ideal set by her companion in greatness, Eudora Welty. Style ought to be, Welty wrote, "like the smoke from a fired cannon, like the ring in the water after the fish is pulled out or jumps back in". And the ripples of Munro's words, at once soothed and exciting, are glorious to behold.

CLARE MESSUD

Now you can give a year of *The TLS* for just £19.75

Packed with wisdom, ideas and insights from some of the most acute writers of our time, *The TLS* is always a pleasure to read.

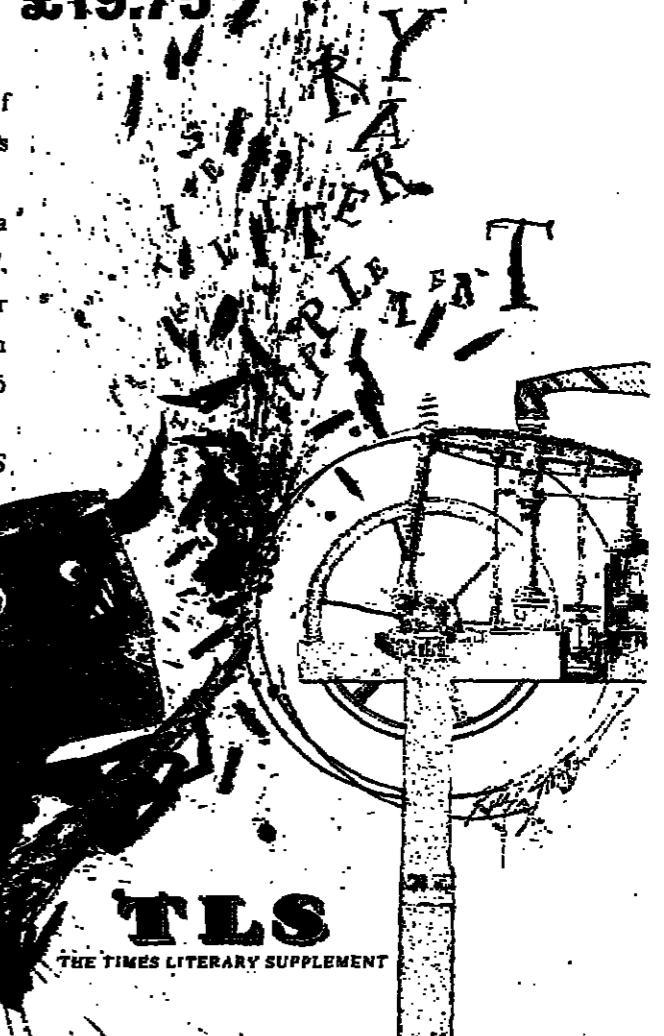
Now our new Browser Subscription makes it a pleasure to give as well. Available until 1st January 1997.

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE The *TLS* Browser Subscription £14 (0 1708 378 379) Call now and subscribe over the phone.

— a discount of 17.5% off the UK cover price.

Browser Subscribers receive one issue of *The TLS* every month, instead of the usual weekly copy from a standard subscription. It's enough to keep them in touch with culture and ideas at a price that's perfect for a gift.

Subscribe before the end of this year and we will send a confirmation of the gift to you or to the new subscriber. We will also send a free 1997 *TLS* calendar to you.



I would like to make a gift of *The TLS* Browser

Please invoice me
Subscription to the person named below. I understand I save 17.5% on the UK cover price and pay just £19.75. Overseas subscribers save even more.

Please charge my VISA / Mastercard / AMEX No.

Please enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Please send confirmation of the gift to me

Please send confirmation of the gift to the recipient

Please enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Please charge my VISA / Mastercard / AMEX No.

Please enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Please send confirmation of the gift to me

Please send confirmation of the gift to the recipient

FREE 1997 *TLS* CALENDAR
You will receive a 1997 *TLS* Calendar worth £5.99, with our compliments when you take out a Browser Subscription to *The TLS*.

SAILING

Goss proves point for underdogs in Atlantic

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

PETE GOSS, in his 50ft. *Aqua Quorum*, has climbed back to eighth place in the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race and is now ahead of five 60ft. pursuers, two of whom had to restart after technical problems.

Goss is a long way behind the leading yacht, *Christophe Auguin's Geodis*, which is almost 2,000 miles southeast of him across the South Atlantic and which was yesterday battling 50 knots of wind in the Roaring Forties after being knocked down on Tuesday.

Yet, in the last 24 hours, struggling in light airs to the north of Tristan da Cunha, Goss has moved ahead of his nearest rivals. Catherine Chabaud, on *Whirlpool Europe*, Patrick de Radigues, on *Afivel*, and Raphaël Dinelli, on *Alginous*.

This is a good performance from Goss, who cannot hope realistically to compete on terms with the best of the Open 60s that dominate the field. However, he still feels he can do better and puts his relatively low position down less to the inherent disadvantages of a 50ft. yacht than to bad luck with routing through the Canaries and then the Doldrums.

In a radio call yesterday, he said he regarded the race proper as just about to begin as he prepared to join the leaders in the Roaring Forties for the ride round to Cape Horn. "I feel frustrated I haven't been able to show what *Aqua Quorum* can do," he said. "I feel our place should be up in the second group."

Three boats are already out of the race, leaving 13 still sailing. The latest casualty, Isabelle Autissier on her new Finot-designed 60, *PRB*, has already made it into Cape Town, where a replacement rudder will be fitted. She was forced to retire on Sunday when lying in second place, but is planning to set off again to complete a circumnavigation. However, she will be unclassified in the race because she has stopped.



Taylor is ecstatic after claiming an extraordinary, juggling slip catch to dismiss Carl Hooper on the last day of the Sydney Test match

gradually gave it self-belief by the strength of his own will to win. Moreover, he sustained it for ten years, spanning 93 Test matches, and now he is about to start his next mission for Australian cricket by coaching their under-19 side in Pakistan early next year.

Throughout his time, though, there was an impression that Border was doing it on sufferance. Bob Simpson, the team coach until earlier this year, agrees. "Border was a lucky captain and there are gifted ones. The blessed are those who have some of each and Taylor appears to be among them.

His field changes draw equal admiration, the latest of them being to shift Glenn McGrath 15 yards to his left on the square-leg boundary. The ball before Courtney Walsh swung him a catch to finish

the Sydney Test. McGrath was man of the match but first he had to face a withering stare from Taylor for dropping two catches earlier in the day. He may be fair and shrewd but Taylor is no pussy-cat.

What everyone accepts is his honesty and chivalry. Several times, he has ruled out slip or wicketkeeping catches that would have been contentious if left to the umpires. He did it again in this latest Test and, when it was over, he marched his men up the visiting team's steps of the Sydney pavilion to shake hands with every West Indian player.

If Taylor has a problem it is his batting and he admits his concentration is "tousy". He will have another new opening partner in Melbourne. Matthew Elliott now being ruled out for two months by his knee injury, and Taylor's lack of a big score will become a focus for the perennial game of finding a flaw in a captain's make-up. This one, certainly, has very few.

Lee and Slater play against England A

ENGLAND A were expecting one of the most demanding assignments of their Australian tour when they took on New South Wales in the first of two one-day matches at the SCG today.

New South Wales, denied the services of Mark Taylor, Mark and Steve Waugh, and Michael Bevan through injury and commitments with the Australia squad for the World Series Cup, still managed to pick a powerful side.

It includes the all-rounder, Shane Lee, and opening batsman, Michael Slater, both members of Australia's World Cup squad that lost in the final to Sri Lanka, and the former Test all-rounder, Greg Matthews.

"We are well aware that these two one-day matches could be the toughest we face," he said.

Pakistan's victory inspired by dazzling Saqlain

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ, the off spinner, claimed figures of five for 44 to bring Pakistan an 11-run victory over New Zealand in the opening one-day international in Gujranwala yesterday.

The 20-year-old off spinner returned his best figures in limited-overs cricket as New Zealand, chasing Pakistan's 228 for eight in 46 overs, were dismissed for 217 in 45.4 overs in a match reduced to 46 overs a side because the sun was blinding the batsmen's eyes at the scheduled start of play.

Saqlain dismantled the brittle New Zealand batting to put his side 1-0 up in the three-match series. Bryan Young, the opener, was top scorer for the touring side with a fluent 58 off 93 balls while Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns each contributed 36.

Pakistan, batting first after winning the toss, were helped to a respectable total by half-centuries from Sajid Malik and Wasim Akram, the captain, Salim, named man of the match, made an unbeaten 73, including a six and six fours, off 78 balls. It was his 41st half-century in his 247th one-day international. Wasim's 52 took his run tally in one-day internationals past 2,000 runs in his 215th game.

PAKISTAN
Saeed Anwar run out 27
Wasim Akram c Waqar b Doull 8
Wasim Akram c German b Asif 14
Sajid Malik not out 73
Wasim Akram c Patai b Harris 3
Shane Afridi c Patel b Harris 62
Shane Afridi c Patel b Harris 18
Wasim Akram c Patel b Harris 10
Wasim Akram c Patel b Harris 3
Sajid Malik c Patel b Harris 22
Total (5 wickets, 46 overs) 228
Waqar Younis did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-19, 3-60, 4-61, 5-71, 6-182, 7-181, 8-187

BOWLING: Doull 3-0-33-1; Kennedy 8-0-47-1; Cairns 10-0-49-1; Astle 8-1-31-2; Harris 6-0-40-2; Patel 3-0-34-0

NEW ZEALAND
B A Young v Waqar 55
M Soper c Waqar b Wasim 35
A Smail c Waqar b Wasim 35
C L Calma c Malik b Waqar 11
D N Patel c Wasim b Wasim 10
S B Doull run out 0
C Z Morris c Shoaib b Wasim 20
S B Doull c Shoaib b Wasim 20
B J Kennedy not out 0
Extras (b, 2 w, 8 nb, 3) 13
Total (6 wickets, 46 overs) 217

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-104, 3-117, 4-177, 5-185, 6-183, 7-185, 8-203, 9-203

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 9-0-44-0; Waqar 9-0-45-2; Sajid Malik 8-0-35-2; Wasim 4-4-5; Wasim Akram 9-0-35-1; Shoaib Afridi 9-0-40-1

Man of the match: Sajid Malik

Umpires: Javed Akhtar and Khizer Hayat (both Pakistan).



all you need is...



Damon Hill
'the fight for
victory'



CANTONA
Speaks



ryan giggs
'revealed'



Nell Morrissey
'motorbikes
mania'

and
a gift from us to you

Spend £25* now and we'll give you
£25 worth of money off vouchers

to spend after Christmas. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas
and giving you an even happier New Year.

all you need

*offer ends 25/12/96



MEASTORES Beyond
entertainment

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DAROLE

- a. A Persian coin
- b. A custard tart
- c. A wax impression

DISMEMBRATOR

- a. The man-splitter Sisus
- b. A Roundhead revolutionary
- c. A separator

EXCIPULUM

- a. A graduate disciple
- b. A Vatican apology
- c. A cell cup

DEAURATE

- a. To remove the ears
- b. Breezless
- c. Golden

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine - Bogolyubov, Dresden 1936. Black is trying to lure White into the trap. If *Rxf6* when *1...Bxf4* wins material. What should White play?

Solution on page 46

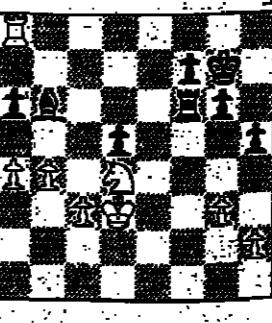


Diagram of final position



Diagram of final position

<p

RACING: McCoy frustrated over Chepstow commitment

Dunwoody moves swiftly to secure Teinein ride

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

AMID the gallery basking in glorious sunshine at Fonthill yesterday was one jockey who could not contemplate his fate. So frustrated was Tony McCoy that he still harboured hopes of riding Teinein on Saturday, several hours after Richard Dunwoody had been confirmed as his replacement.

Details of Dunwoody's booking for the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown spread like a forest fire. Teinein, unexposed in two outings this season, was backed down to 7-2 from 9-2 with the sponsors. Yet McCoy insisted: "Nothing has been decided. We'll just have to wait and see." When Saturday comes, however, McCoy will be at Chepstow to partner the Paul Nicholls-trained Belmont King in the Rehearsal Chase.

No one could blame the champion jockey for clutching at straws. After riding in the opener at Cheltenham nine

days ago, McCoy dashed more than 100 miles to Huntington to ride Teinein in the concluding event. He knew the contest was a formality; Teinein obliged in a common canter. Now he must forfeit what he feels will be a valuable payday. Asked about Teinein's chance, he responded:

Nap: SANMARTINO (12.50 Leicester)
Next best: Zeredar (2.30 Windsor)

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

Billygoat Gruff, 10-1 Stregone, General Wolfe, Parsons Boy, Sun Bay, 12-1 Evangelia, Moorcroft Boy, Sister Stephanie, 14-1 bar.

Billygoat Gruff and St Mellion Fairway, who spearhead a strong entry from David Nicholson's stable, will both be in action on Saturday. The latter is expected to clash with the Noel Chance-trained Mr. Mulligan, due to be schooled by David Bridgewater in Lamourn this morning.

Josh Gifford, who saddled Duke of Apron to victory in the Norfolk Challenge Cup at Fonthill yesterday, reported the imminent return of two of his injured stable stars. Brief Gale, a former winner of the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, may reappear in the Bumperer Cup at Ascot later this month. And Bradbury Star, now recovered after prolonged treatment to an injured hock, will return at the first suitable opportunity — possibly at Chepstow on Saturday.

Giving good ground to soft or places

12.40 (2m 11f) 11/11 (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamper test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

12.20 BARRYSELL SELLING HURDLE (22.285, 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

12.20 Far Dawn

1.50 The Spy Padre

2.20 Shining Light

2.50 Mezzini

3.20 CIRCUS STAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

3.20 CIRCUS STAR

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody landed the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird [against Teinein] at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snap at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the sponsors. Should he take his chance, The Grey Monk will effectively compete from a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Losers, winners and the merely alienated

It's not often you see a metaphor made flesh, but if you ever desired to see one, last night's *Modern Times: Going for Broke* (BBC2) was happy to oblige. The story was simple: Keith Sinclair's market-leading horsebox business in Lincolnshire had gone under, but he refused to accept either liquidation or bankruptcy. Instead, against all advice, he planned to sue his bank (Barclays) for mishandling his affairs. A chain-smoker now living alone and embattled in a caravan, Keith was a tiresome, argumentative man, who would settle for nothing less than public recognition of his brilliant achievements in the world of equine transport. Offered practical help, he would refuse it. Shown evidence of awkward facts, he would tear it up. In short, he was a man to drive you mad.

People watching at home, of course, soon recognised that Keith

was flogging a dead horse—which was where the astonishing visual metaphor came in. Because in the last quarter of the film, suddenly (literally) an old horse collapsed in Keith's paddock, and Keith tried (literally) to make it get up. "Come on," he urged the big creature, his arms around its neck. Keith loved this horse, you see, and it was dying. He tried again. "Come on." But the horse would not get up, and Keith was powerless. For the first time he shed tears, and his weeping was enough to break your heart. Keith's hard luck story was so badly argued that you often wanted to hit him; but when he tried to lift that horse, he aroused nothing short of pity.

Frustrating and edgy, *Going for Broke* was a fine documentary on an unromantic subject. Keith is the rambler you run away from after two minutes' acquaintance, because he's more concerned to prove a point than improve the

situation he's complaining about. *Going for Broke* mainly concerned an episode in Keith's struggle, when Mike, an insolvency expert (and possibly uncanonical saint), offered professional help. But the ungrateful Keith was soon arguing with him. "I built this business up singlehanded! I sold a horse ambulance to the Sultan of Brunei! I have international contacts!" Mike was patient, and brokered with Barclays, but then discovered discrepancies, suspected fraud, and gave up. Helping Keith was like banging your head against a brick wall—and if Mike had decided to perform that act literally, we would certainly have understood.

Somebody with equal reason to complain about banks is the eponymous Matt of *Matt's Millions* — an enjoyable children's series on ITV, which reached its third episode yester-

day. But no unpleasant litigation is in the air here. Banks are very nice to Matt, as are solicitors and Rolls-Royce salesmen. He is a schoolboy with a million quid. And his nature is so sweetly innocent that he doesn't even despise his fawners—which I have to say, detracts from the moral educative value of the series quite considerably.

How different the story would be, from a Keith Sinclair perspec-

tive. Take Matt's big surprise in episode one. A 12-year-old, living with his mother, Matt opens a letter at breakfast and finds a cheque for £1,227,309.87, sent by a firm of solicitors. Why? Well, it turns out that a computer game Matt wrote was sold by the firm without his knowledge, and has now been marketed worldwide.

A young, sincere, Glenn Hoddle lookalike solicitor tells him the story. Apparently the death of a senior partner has brought the matter to light. Given the (hem) irregularities, says Hoddle, do you still want us to handle your business affairs? "Oh yes," enthuses Matt, his eyes like saucers. "You seem to have done an excellent job so far!"

I just hope Keith Sinclair hasn't been watching. At the bank, a smiling manager tells the child that his only interest is £338. "Hoorah!" says Matt. *Matt's Millions* is a very nice series, and the money motive gets a rest.

REVIEW



Lynne
Truss

young Peter England is a natural star—but I resent the way it makes me feel old and cynical. Those people have ripped you off, Matt! Don't you do copyright at school? And think about it: if you get 10 per cent of every sale in Japan, where does the other 90 go? What does this smarmy Glenn Hoddle man get out of it? Also, don't trust the bank to give you the best rate of interest! Listen to *Money Box* on Radio 4 at the first opportunity! See sense, Matt, before it is too late!

Perhaps the reason for the preposterous success of *The X-Files* (BBC2) is that money (or once) just never enters into it. In most dramas, it's the desire for money or love that drives people to do unpleasant things, whereas in *The X-Files*, it's contact with aliens, or the criminal impulse to preserve unthinkable secrets. So the money motive gets a rest.

which is a good thing. In *The X-Files*, the world is still full of corrupt, untrustworthy people, but if the bank manager is mean and distant and forecloses your business, it's because his eyeballs go black in certain lights, and he's hiding something big.

Last night's episode was the first of a two-parter, and followed all the usual rules. In *The X-Files* a man has only to come home and stare unblinking (for half a second) at his own wedding photo, and the viewer jumps automatically to the correct assumption: yawn, yawn, this man's body has been hijacked by aliens. The natural response: "What's going on?" is unsounded in the living rooms of Britain. Yes, to the universal cognoscenti, the deduction is not only obvious, it's also just a minor plot development, which we take in our stride. "So, OK, this man's body has been hijacked by aliens," we huff impatiently, "but then what?"

BBC2	
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (82414)	
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (1) (1785)	
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (115582)	
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (403801)	
9.45 KILROY (8854650)	
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (82230)	
11.00 NEWS (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (3564934)	
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW	
Consumer series (5565747)	
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE	
Celebrity chat show (931358)	
12.00 NEWS (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4979891)	
12.05pm SNOWY RIVER — THE MCGREGOR SAGA (8501465)	
12.50 A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE (3097422)	
1.00 NEWS (1) and weather (16872)	
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (52474176)	
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (1) (2915834)	
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (1747)	
2.30 THE TERRACE (579)	
3.00 INCOGNITO (3522)	
3.30 LITTLE BEAR (73827) 3.55 Alvin and the Chipmunks (5152093) 4.00 Julie and Janet Hyde (8519327) 4.25 Smart (7899869) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5440230) 5.10 The BIZ (1785037)	
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (1) (889650)	
6.00 NEWS (1) and weather (308)	
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (360)	
7.00 WATCHDOG	
Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (5563)	
7.30 EASTENDERS	
Huw and Lenny hit the airwaves, while Alan has more problems at home (1) (872)	
8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL	
Rolf Harris rounds off the series on the work of the Hartwicks Animal Hospital (1) (4211)	
8.30 2POINT1 CHILDREN Family sitcom (1) (5178)	
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4058)	
9.30 THE THIN BLUE LINE	
DJ Gilm decides to lead the war against drugs and the station locker room goes unsexed. With Rowan Atkinson (1) (83390)	
10.00 CROCODILE SHOES: Still I Dream	
Continuing the story of Jed Sheppard, who this week is more concerned by his sister's future than his own. With Jimmy Nail (872205)	
10.55 QUESTION TIME	
David Dimbleby chairs a live political debate with Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, SDLP leader John Hume and the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, John Taylor (1) (264308)	
11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK With Hugh Laurs, Neil Kinnock and Gary Gitter (1) (830872)	
12.30pm FILM: MURDER C. O. D. (1990)	
With William Devane as a voyeuristic killer who uses sophisticated surveillance equipment to watch and listen to strangers. Directed by Alan Metzger (35612)	
2.00 WEATHER (2094029)	

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode	
The numbers next to each TV programme and Video PlusCode+ number, which allow you to programme your recorder, are the Video PlusCode+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (1), PlusCode+ (2) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.	
Philip Jackson stars (10.20pm)	
10.20 10 X 10: Woe to the Hunter	
Short films from new directors (649037)	
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (1) (574209)	
11.15 LATE REVIEW (678872)	
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT SHOW (76728)	
12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE	
Open University 1.30 English, Whose English? 2.00 Believing, 4.00 Languages 5.00 Business and Work	

Philip Jackson stars (10.20pm)

10.20 10 X 10: Woe to the Hunter

Short films from new directors (649037)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (1) (574209)

11.15 LATE REVIEW (678872)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT SHOW (76728)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE

Open University 1.30 English, Whose English? 2.00 Believing, 4.00 Languages 5.00 Business and Work

10.30pm THE WORKS: The Billion Dollar Hole (82415)

10.30pm OPEN UNIVERSITY: Royal Palaces

Images of Power (730768) 8.55

Princes and Peasants (730455) 8.55

Time for You (825958) 7.15 See Hear

Breadkast News (2272850) 7.20 Yolky Duck (5100358) 7.30 Blue Peter (1) (5104650) 8.15 Noddy (5256037) 8.25

Pingu (5847389) 8.35 The Record (6247055)

8.35 The Womad Well (1162810) 9.15 Elephants in Thailand (5683969) 10.00 Playdays (260501)

10.25 The Fugitive (8442476) 11.15 Phi

Silvers (7876704) 11.20 Frost Gordon

Trip to Mars (2181691) 12.00 Hot Wolf (77124) 12.30pm Working Lunch (62932)

1.00 Pingu (82448308) 1.05 Noddy (5991338)

1.15 FILM: *We Met by Moonlight* (1988)

Classic war film, with Dick Bogarde (7271588)

3.00 NEWS (1) (7301834) 3.05 WESTMINSTER (234572) 3.55 News (6104940)

4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (501)

4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK (785)

5.00 OPRAH WINFREY: Make Your Own Commercial (4888037)

5.40 PRUE LEITH'S TRICKS OF THE TRADE (701969)

5.50 MORE SECRET GARDENS (60574)

6.00 STAR TREK: Deep Space Nine An instant-time bomb arrives on Deep Space Nine (382389)

6.45 QUANTUM LEAP Sam becomes Max, a New York cabby (1) (476308)

7.30 ANIMAL INSTINCTS

The different lifestyles of those who oppose Carla Lane's vision for rural Britain (414)

7.40 WALES 7.30 The Works 8.00 Roll Over Beethoven

8.00 THE WORKS: The Billion Dollar Hole (2853)

8.30 TOP GEAR

Merrie Clarkson tests the

Mercedes SLK Roadster. Plus the

experimental, gadget-packed SCC (1860)

9.00 SPUD ROCK: FROM THE SUN

Siobhan and the aliens who assume human form. Dick won't know how the other three have found it easy to make friends when he hasn't (2083)

9.30 THE MIND TRAVELLER

Neurologist Oliver Sacks meets Heidi, an eight-

old whose rare syndrome challenges basic assumptions about what constitutes intelligence (41327)

10.00pm THE CROCODILE

Continuing the story of Jed Sheppard, who this week is more concerned by his sister's future than his own. With Jimmy Nail (872205)

10.55 QUESTION TIME

David Dimbleby chairs a live political debate with Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, SDLP leader John Hume and the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, John Taylor (1) (264308)

11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK

With Hugh Laurs, Neil Kinnock and Gary Gitter (1) (830872)

12.30pm FILM: MURDER C. O. D. (1990)

With William Devane as a voyeuristic killer who uses sophisticated surveillance equipment to watch and listen to strangers. Directed by Alan Metzger (35612)

2.00 WEATHER (2094029)

Philip Jackson stars (10.20pm)

10.20 10 X 10: Woe to the Hunter

Short films from new directors (649037)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (1) (574209)

11.15 LATE REVIEW (678872)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT SHOW (76728)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE

Open University 1.30 English, Whose English? 2.00 Believing, 4.00 Languages 5.00 Business and Work

10.00pm THE WORKS: The Billion Dollar Hole (2853)

10.30pm OPEN UNIVERSITY: Royal Palaces

Images of Power (730768) 8.55

Princes and Peasants (730455) 8.55

Time for You (825958) 7.15 See Hear

Breadkast News (2272850) 7.20 Yolky Duck (5100358) 7.30 Blue Peter (1) (5

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

Military elite call for end to nuclear arms

BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A GLOBAL coalition of retired senior generals and admirals from countries including Britain, America and Russia yesterday issued a joint demand for the complete and irrevocable elimination of the world's nuclear arsenal.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the former Chief of the Defence Staff, and General Sir Hugh Beach, a member of the UK Security Commission, joined nearly 40 senior officers from America and Russia, including General John Galvin, the former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, and General Aleksandr Lebed in calling for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons.

In Washington, General Andrew Goodpaster, a former

Supreme Allied Commander and advised to President Eisenhower, joined General Lee Butler, former Commander-in-Chief of the US Strategic Command, in issuing their own joint statement.

The United States and other nations, they said, should take steps to align nuclear weapons policies to match their diminished role and leading to multilateral disarmament as rapidly as possible.

The ultimate objective of phased reductions should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from all nations, they said. "No one can say today whether or when this final goal will prove feasible... but we believe the time for action is now, for the

alternative of inaction could well carry a high price."

The generals added that nuclear weapons were no longer necessary in a post-Cold War world and merely provided an option to respond in kind to any nuclear threat or attack by others, including rogue nations.

Other risks included accidents, unauthorized launches, and the theft of weapons or weapons material by international and domestic terrorist groups. Despite the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear arms could spread to other nations and cause a war risk.

Conventional capabilities offered a sufficient deterrent and defence against conventional forces and, combined

with other defensive measures, could curb the threat of chemical and biological weapons.

Although the former military chiefs are not advocating immediate elimination of all nuclear weapons, they consider that, unless the five official nuclear powers make a substantial gesture in cutting to a minimum their nuclear inventory, countries with the capability to produce nuclear weapons and maverick nations intent on having their own atomic bombs will have no incentive to surrender such ambitions.

The declaration also comes after the agreement on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, another important development in their view that underlines the need to change longstanding nuclear strategy.

Lord Carver has made clear in the past that he supports a total elimination of nuclear arms. He said recently that nuclear weapons had "no utility as a military weapon". He supports the idea of a phased approach that would begin with taking weapon systems off alert and removing warheads from delivery platforms.

General Lebed, who until his recent sacking was President Yeltsin's National Security Adviser, is joined on the list of signatories by General Boris Gromov, who achieved international prominence as the last commander of Russian forces in Afghanistan.



Attacking the nuclear arsenal are, from left, Britain's Field Marshal Lord Carver, General John Galvin of the United States and Russia's General Aleksandr Lebed



Cold War relic: a warhead on a Minuteman missile

WORLD SUMMARY

Mother Teresa walking

Calcutta: Mother Teresa was described as "fine" by her doctors yesterday after she was able to walk a few steps in her hospital room in Calcutta (Christopher Thomas writes). After a night of respiratory therapy she told doctors to leave her alone so that she could rest. She later took Mass sitting in a chair.

Medical bulletins continue to emphasize that she is not out of danger and that her lung and kidney diseases could present dangerous complications. Her lungs were said last night to be "slightly improved" but her kidney condition was unchanged.



Miss Lucky Girl Alison Gibson

Japanese fall for Briton in a kimono

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A CAMBRIDGE student was chosen yesterday as Miss Lucky Girl in Osaka, beating 500 Japanese women competing for the coveted title.

Alison Gibson, 21, triumphed after parading before an all-male jury in a kimono and explaining in fluent Japanese how she would honour Ebisu, the money god. As *Fukumusume*, or Miss Lucky Girl, she will preside over next year's festival for Ebisu, who is worshipped all over Japan but most fervently in Osaka, known as the "city of merchants". Many Japanese believe that praying to Ebisu will bring them riches.

"I'm so excited," said Miss Gibson, the first foreigner to be queen of the festival. "I thought being a traditional Japanese festival they'd have chosen a proper Japanese girl."

The nine judges, all aged over 60, were impressed with her gracious comportment in a kimono and modest way of speaking — qualities they found deplorably absent in Japan's younger generation.

Miss Gibson, a student of Japanese at Robinson College, Cambridge, is spending a year studying the language in Japan. She said the family she stays with entered her in the contest without asking her. Her mother, who lives in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, was delighted at the news. "The Japanese are portrayed as very xenophobic, but if they allow a Westerner to do so well in something like this, then they can't be all that introverted," Mrs Gibson said.

Guatemala pact ends shooting

Oslo: Nearly seven years after the adversaries in Guatemala's civil war held a first awkward meeting in Oslo, they signed a pact calling a permanent ceasefire in the 36-year-old conflict. More than 140,000 people have died in the war. Talks, in which an amnesty for wartime atrocities has been a key issue, are continuing. (Reuters)

Havel pays car doctors more

Prague: Doctors who performed lung surgery on President Havel this week earned a lower hourly wage for the three-hour operation than the mechanics who work on his official car. The daily *Mladá Fronta Dnes* said the doctors were each paid about £48. The mechanics are paid £30 an hour. (Reuters)

Britain attempts to quell Hong Kong fears over passports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

only one form of British passport... we do not accept that the way in which a British citizen obtained his or her passport would of itself be evidence of dual nationality. We would not regard any claim by the local authorities that a British passport had been obtained under the British Nationality Selection Scheme as itself relevant or acceptable evidence of dual nationality."

Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy in the colony, said of the nationality scheme passport: "It was a British act to create trouble." He was referring to Britain's condemnation of Tiananmen and its desire to reassure some Hong Kong people that they could seek refuge in Britain.

Government House described the BNSS passport yesterday as "just like the one in John Major's pocket".

car insurance
gone up?
you need help.

0800 11 22 33



— Turning nature into art —

Sudeten Germans threaten Kohl over pact with Prague

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN



SUDETEN Germans, expelled from the then Czechoslovakia after the Second World War, were determined yesterday to make life difficult for Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, if he goes ahead with a long-delayed friendship treaty with Prague.

The German leader and Vaclav Klaus, the Prime Minister of the new Czech Republic, at a meeting in Lisbon on Tuesday, agreed that the way was now clear to sign a declaration aimed at closing the book on the Second World War. The Czech Republic is the only victim of Nazi occupation not to have come to terms with Germany. Diplomats said yesterday that a final round of talks would be needed but that the agreement would probably be ready for signing by the end of the year.

The Sudeten Germans — who constitute a remarkably powerful element within the Bavarian Christian Social Union — are furious. "The government coalition obviously did not think it necessary to inform the Sudeten Germans of the exact wording of the declaration," Franz Neubauer, chairman of the Sudeten community, said. "The decisions are once again being taken over the heads of those concerned."

Herr Kohl has promised to talk directly to the Sudeten Germans and persuade them of the need to reach an accommodation with Prague. He is likely to have a rough ride. Plainly there will now be trouble between the Chancellor and his Bavarian ally, the CSU.

More than two million ethnic Germans were expelled by the Czechoslovak Government after the war, often forced into cattle trucks. Houses were confiscated and, according to several personal memoirs, German women were raped and beaten. Witnesses say that

women were sometimes nailed to the wheels of carts.

The Sudeten have urged the German Government to press for a full apology from the Czechs and for the right of Sudeten to reclaim their lost homes or at least to settle again in the region.

The Czech Government resisted, fearing a flood of German property claims and sensitive in any case to popular resentment about growing German influence in the republic. A commentator for the *Prague Post* recently declared:

"The status of the Czech Republic has gone from that of a Soviet satellite to that of a German protectorate."

The terms of the agreement are still secret. It is already clear that Prague will not concede that the expulsion was illegal. It is ready to state public regard about the "excesses" carried out by Czechs in forcing the Germans out; the Germans in turn will apologise for Nazi atrocities.

That means none of the four basic demands of the Sudeten will have been met: active consultation of the Sudeten during the Bonn-Prague talks, a full moral condemnation of the expulsions, recognition of the Sudeten to a right to a homeland and the cancellation of the so-called Benes decrees which deny property rights to ethnic Germans.

The Chancellor has given away more ground than any-

one in the Czech Republic thought possible after almost two years of detailed, sluggish negotiations. In part this is because of his impatience. He has been receiving reports from the German Embassy in Prague about the tarnishing of the German image, and was worried that Czech-German friction would complicate European Union enlargement talks due to begin soon after the end of the inter-governmental conference next summer.

For the Sudeten, Herr Kohl has surrendered one of the key bargaining points: Prague's determination to be in the first wave of new European Union entrants. Then Waigel, the Finance Minister — from the Bavarian CSU — had hinted that Prague's path to the EU would be more difficult unless it made concessions.

Leading article and Letters, page 21



Key players in the birth of the Church of England: from the left, Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Pope Clement VII

Carey seeks to speed up closing of Reformation rift

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday that he was "very pleased" with his dialogue with the Pope intended to breathe new life into the Anglican-Catholic relationship. However, with only three years to the millennium, progress towards unity was "unsatisfactory" and the two sides had jointly to confront a "threatened collapse" of

moral values. "I feel frustrated that the great promises and hopes that seemed to be in the air a few years ago just do not seem to have borne the fruit that they should have," he said.

Dr Carey, accompanied by his wife, Eileen, yesterday knelt in prayer at the tomb of St Peter on his second day in Rome. Today he meets the Pope for substantive talks on divisive issues, such as the Anglican decision four years ago to ordain women priests, a controversy that has overshadowed

his visit but has yet to be confronted. Tomorrow he goes to Milan to meet Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the city's Archbishop, who is a noted liberal seen by many as a future candidate for the papacy.

Yesterday Dr Carey toured the Vatican's Secret Archives and was shown a 1530 letter from Henry VIII to Pope Clement VII asking the Pope to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope refused and four

years later Henry issued his Act of Supremacy, renouncing Rome and, in effect, establishing the Church of England.

The Archbishop also visited St Peter's crypt where several 20th-century popes lie buried, pausing at the tomb of Paul VI (1963-78). He recalled that talks between Paul VI and the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, had opened the way for the first Anglican-Catholic dialogue since the Reformation.

Save up to 40%
on more than 50 bestsellers.
(What a novel idea.)

Swiss turned away 30,000

Bern: More than 30,000 refugees, most of them Jewish, were refused entry to Switzerland during the Second World War, according to archive material published yesterday. The figures are three times higher than earlier estimates and result from research carried out by the Swiss national archive and the Federal Refugee Office.

The researchers said the expulsions were carried out in the full knowledge of the dangers the refugees faced.

According to the archives 24,400 people were turned back at the borders and a further 14,500 were granted asylum after application from abroad. "Certainly more than 30,000 asylum-seekers were refused entry into Switzerland," one researcher said.

The researchers said the expulsions were carried out in the full knowledge of the dangers the refugees faced.

According to the archives 24,400 people were turned back at the borders and a further 14,500 were granted asylum after application from abroad. "Certainly more than 30,000 asylum-seekers were refused entry into Switzerland," one researcher said.

How Do You Feel About £10 Worth Of Free Calls?



First Telecom offers international and national calls at up to 80% less than other networks.

Unlike some of our competitors, we can always be relied on for fantastic savings, friendly service and crystal clear connections.

One call from your existing touch tone phone links you to the world's largest and most dependable fibre optic network. There are no connection fees or line rental charges.

And for those of you feeling let down by your existing long distance service provider, here's a special offer to put a smile on your face.

Switch to First Telecom by 8 December 1996 and we'll give you £10 worth of calls FREE OF CHARGE!

FIRST TELECOM

0800 376 6666

Offer valid 12.12.96-15.12.96. For First & International calls.

DEATH KNOWS NO NEIGHBOUR
TERRY PRATCHETT

HOGFATHER
DRINK WITH THE DEVIL

CLANCY
EXECUTIVE
ORDERS

THE NEW CLANCY SERIES

OPEN RHODES
AROUND BRITAIN

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Gary Rhodes

Photographs by Alan Baker

Introduction by Terry Wogan

Open Rhodes Around Britain

Judge attacked for ruling in favour of gay marriages

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

PAVING the way for the official recognition of gay marriage in his state, a Hawaiian judge has become the first in American history to declare that denying marriage licences to homosexual couples is unconstitutional.

In a 40-page ruling that marks a turning point for the gay rights movement, Judge Kevin Chang of Honolulu declared there was no evidence that same-sex parents were any worse at raising children than heterosexual ones. Denying them the legal right of married couples was a simple case of sex discrimination, he concluded.

The decision, issued late on Tuesday, was denounced by religious conservatives as "judicial tyranny" and an attempt to roll back 6,000 years of tradition. However, three gay couples whose legal action six years ago led to the ruling greeted it with tears of relief.

"I didn't think I would cry if it was a good decision, but this is a big day for us," said a sobbing Ninia Baehr, who now lives with her partner, Genora Dancel, in Baltimore but is planning a small private wedding in Maui.

Government lawyers in Hawaii have announced that they will appeal against Judge Chang's verdict but the state's Supreme Court is thought to be unlikely to overturn it. Whatever the outcome of the case in Hawaii, it is another matter whether homosexual marriages will be recognised throughout America. Last year's federal Defence of Mar-

riage Act refused to recognise gay marriages, and 16 mainland states have passed laws banning them.

Gay leaders were jubilant yesterday, however, pointing out that this is the first time an American court has defended same-sex marriage on existing constitutional grounds. "This decision marks the beginning of the end of sex discrimination in marriage just as we brought an end to race discrimination in marriage a generation ago," Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal

• An activist judge has flouted public opinion and imposed his own agenda

Defence Fund, a gay rights group, said.

Hawaii's six-year-old centre of the gay marriage issue began in 1990 when Ms Baehr, Ms Dancel, another lesbian couple and two gay men requested marriage licences at the Honolulu Health Department and were refused them.

The three couples appealed to the state Supreme Court, which in 1993 found that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violated an "equal protection" clause in the Hawaiian constitution.

Basing its decision on the plaintiffs' sex rather than their sexuality, the Supreme Court referred the case to the High Court, which had earlier upheld the denial of the marriage licences and where state lawyers had now to prove that this apparent sex discrimination was to the public good.

In a non-jury trial in September, expert witnesses testifying on the benefits to children of being raised by heterosexual parents did not persuade Judge Chang. They failed to establish a causal link between allowing same-sex marriage and adverse effects on the development of children, he wrote.

Hinting that opponents of gay marriage may have hindered their own cause in the case, the judge concluded that their evidence "establishes that the single most important factor in the development of a happy, healthy and well-adjusted child is the nurturing relationship between parent and child."

Lenaala Pregil, the 19-year-old daughter of one lesbian plaintiff, said after the verdict: "A lot of kids grow up with parents who don't care for them. I have two parents who do love and care for me."

Conservatives said Judge Chang had ignored polls showing that 70 per cent of Hawaiians oppose gay marriage. "An activist judge has flouted public opinion and imposed his own agenda," Robert Knight, of the Family Research Council, said.

NINIA BAEHR and Genora Dancel are not rushing out to order their wedding outfits. The lesbian couple, one of the three gay couples whose 1991 lawsuit against the Hawaii state government triggered this week's ruling, know there may still be a long way to go before they have the wedding of their dreams in a Hawaii mountainside.

The Hawaii circuit court's decision has raised fundamental questions about states' independence from federal law — and from each other's laws. The expectation that Hawaii would legalise gay marriage triggered a nationwide wave of pre-emptive legislation. In September, President Clinton, signed the Defence of Marriage Act, which denies federal benefits to same-sex couples and allows states to ignore gay marriages made under other states' laws.

Laws banning gay marriage have also been suggest-



CIA 'set up' death squads in Colombia

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

VIGILANTE squads terrorising Colombia's rural areas were set up with assistance from the CIA, according to Human Rights Watch, an American organisation.

In a report published this week, *Assassination Squads in Colombia*, the organisation says CIA agents went to Colombia in 1991 to help the military to train undercover agents in anti-subversive activity. CIA expertise was then used to set up a network of paramilitary groups to clamp down on the left-wing guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), and its supporters.

These "illegal" paramilitary groups have since proliferated and are responsible for a state of lawlessness in remote areas which the police cannot reach. At least 2,000 people have "disappeared".

The level of human rights being committed is worrying and paramilitary activity is totally out of control," a Western diplomat in Bogota said.

The paramilitary terrorist remote rural areas such as the Antioquia region in northwest Colombia by staging public killings of suspected rebel sympathisers, many of whom are innocent civilians. Training and military advice from the US has given the Colombian military a perfect mechanism to wage a dirty war," the report claims.

The vigilantes recently stepped up their activity after the Farc, taking advantage of President Samper's waning credibility, renewed its violent campaign in September. Senator Samper has spent much of this year denying charges that he accepted cocaine money to fund his 1994 election.

As the lawlessness spreads, new "extermination squads" are being set up. In October, one "squad" terrorised the coffee-growing village of San Roque, in Antioquia, where they dragged three men from their homes. After branding them as left-wing subversives, they were shot in the head and hung from trees in the square.

"They were just humble coffee-pickers sleeping in their beds," one woman said. "They were killed for no reason ... What kind of justice is this?"

Hollywood actor admits taking drugs since he was eight

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE American film actor Robert Downey Jr admitted last night that he has taken drugs on and off, since he was an eight-year-old boy, and said he was "doped up" during the making of one recent movie.

Downey, 31, who was nominated for a best actor Oscar in 1992 for his title role in *Chaplin*, said that he was brought up in a household in which

drug-taking "was as casual as it would be having white wine with Thanksgiving". His father, Robert Downey Sr, is a celebrated "underground" film director and reared his son in the casual manner of the artistic set in Vietnam-era America.

The actor went on network television last night to disclose that a year ago he looked at himself in the mirror and realised: "Oh my God. I'm a junkie. You know, I'm a heroin addict... I'm like feeling sick and..."

I have to get some, so I don't feel sick."

He told the interviewer, Diane Sawyer — who last month interrogated the Duchess of York — that he was "under the influence" of drugs when he made the recent hit film *Home for the Holidays*. His condition was noticed by the film's director, Jodie Foster, who made an effort to help him. Downey, whose remarks betray a thriving drug culture in Hollywood, said that

drug-taking was commonly tolerated in the American film business. Foster was "one of the few people who didn't just watch it happen and... not say anything". Downey, whose on-screen characters tend to be sunny, handsome youths with few problems, added that Foster told him she was "worried about you thinking that you can keep doing this — and she was absolutely right".

Sir Richard Attenborough, who directed Downey in *Chaplin*, once

called him "a brat pack gaffy with virtually no discipline". His films have included *To Live and Die in L.A.*, *Restoration* and *Natural Born Killers*. In June, police found cocaine, crack and black tar heroin in the back of his car and his co-actor and friend, Sean Penn, chartered an aircraft to fly Downey to a detoxification centre in Arizona. He ran away after a day.

Film reviews, page 37



BUY NOW
Offers End
7th Dec
P150+ In Stock!
Guaranteed
Delivery
In 3 Days

The UK's Nº1 Offer

£998.75
inc.VAT

Unbeatable Price!

£850
+VAT

Included Software Bundle

- Microsoft Windows 95 with manual and CD
- Low-profile system unit including Wester Pro 40 word processor, Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets, Approach 96 database, Outrider 5 SmartPlus graphics
- CST pre-built 500 unit including Pentium desktop processor, DeepSpace 3D graphics card, Money personal finance and Homebank utilities package
- Pack 2000 full Acute account suite
- Shareware games including Doom, Bopar, pinball and more

Credit Payment Option

£46.27 £19.8%

Buy last 460.27/19.8% interest and 24 monthly payments of £46.27. Total price £213.76 APR 19.8%.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76. Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Interest is calculated on the original amount of £213.76.

Message received ...

The solution to intimacy without risk is an answerphone, Giles Coren discovers

Most of us do not very often have to tell 26-year-old Dominican-born fitness trainers that we are taking our chiselled bones and Hollywood millions and marrying them to somebody else. But if we did, we would almost certainly do it on an answering machine.

When Daniel Day-Lewis chucked Isabelle Adjani, the mother of his child, he did it by fax. When he got married to one Rebecca Miller, he phoned Ms Adjani to tell her, and left a message on the answering machine, which omitted the lucky lady's name. Ms Adjani assumed, reasonably enough, that he was marrying the woman with whom he lived, Deya Pichardo, said Dominican fitness instructor. Her phone call to congratulate Ms Pichardo on her nuptials fell on surprised ears — this being the first she had heard of it.

Wobbles were thrown. Finally, Mr Day-Lewis decided to come clean and admitted everything — that he had got married, and had been thoughtless, and was terribly sorry — to her answering machine.

These may sound like the typical frolics of a Hollywood love rat. And yet there is one element that makes the players sound rather more like ourselves: the answering machines.

For since their emergence in the late 1970s, when only the occasional technophile had his telephone proudly answered by an automated American accent pre-recorded in Taiwan, we have developed from the days when people apologised for not being in to where everyone has one, and leaves on whether they are there or not.

Answering machines have, in fact, replaced conversation. In Britain, we have never liked talking to each other, anyway. And the intimacy without risk that the answerphone offers is irresistible. It is the only way we can bring ourselves to chastise tradesmen, end relationships, call in sick, ask for an overraft, or apologise.

Once it was the study of a person's letters that could offer a glimpse into the minutiae of their lives, but with the death of writing it is only by listening to a person's answerphone messages that you can get to their soul.

To see how such a project might fare, I listened in on five answerphones, belonging to randomly selected members of the public, who explained their encrypted meaning.

Will Laffan, 38, plumber.

Greeting: Hello. Will and his wrench are out on the town, where the floors are wet and



Daniel Day-Lewis left a message for his lover, Deya Pichardo, right, on their answerphone telling her he had married the actress Rebecca Miller

the water's brown. Leave a message or call me on — mobile number.

Message: "Hello, Popeye Pizza here. We're out of pineapple, do you want to change your order?" That's left over from last night. I was in the lav when they rang and didn't hear the machine. So they put green pepper on instead, and I hate green pepper. I'll have to add that to the message, so they know for next time.

Message: "Will? It's Adrian Cheng. That grouting you did on my bath has shrunk, and the gaps have come back, the woman downstairs is shouting at me again. Can you get over tonight?" I've been doing work for this bloke for ages, he's a real grumbler. I'll go round there and find that there's a hairline crack and he'll be surprised when I bill him for 25 quid.

Message: "Will, we really ought to talk. It's about last night. I know you think I overreacted, but you have to admit you were horrible. I

don't have to move in tomorrow. I just think... I just think that it's something we have to deal with. Oh, I can't put it all on the answerphone, just phone me when you get in." That was my girlfriend. It's obvious what that was about, isn't it? I'm glad I've got the machine. I couldn't have coped with that one.

Matt Sinclair, 20, Student in Oxford, sharing house with Christian, Mark and Jules.

Greeting: Hello. I'm afraid the answerphone isn't in right now. This is the toaster speaking, leave a message after the tone and I'll do my best to remember it.

Message: "Jules? Jules? Are you awake? Get up. (Pause) Get up, get up, get up. I guess you're asleep. I'll try later." Apart from the sitting room, Jules's room is the only one with a phone, so early-morning messages are directed at him. This is from his girlfriend, Mia.

"Hello boys. When are you going later? Could just stay in and go to the Fir Tree, Nicola might be along, too. Give us a ring." Only good news on the machine. This is Jessica who lives in a house round the corner with a girl called Tammy. Nicola is only 17 and as a result thinks I am very clever and may sleep with me. I say this knowing that she never reads the papers, so I should be okay.

Message: "Yo. Jonny here. I'm

in the car. Later." Friend from school who drives around in his car phoning people.

Message: "Ho, ho, ho. Very funny. It's mum here. I've got the cream from Dr Roland, I'll post it tomorrow. Love you." Jules's mother. She is always indiscreet. No idea what the cream is for, I can't see that Jules is ever awake long enough to get it.

Leslie Burke, 51, civil engineer, wife called Jill. Two sons aged 7 and 16. Daughters aged 19 and 21.

Greeting: I am afraid this is the answering machine, please leave a message after the long tone, and one of us will call you back as soon as we can.

Message: "Mrs Burke? It's Gracia here. I cannot come tonight, I have a cold. Hope that is okay." That's the babysitter. She's a nice girl but she always cancels on the day.

Message: "Hi, Mum. I got your message. But I'm working late, I couldn't make it before nine. Call if that's any use." That's our eldest, Mo. She lives about a mile away and sometimes helps out.

Message: "I hope you get this in time. It's me. Babysitting will be a problem as long as Mo gets here by nine. I have to be away by nine-thirty. Okay, bye." My other daughter, Joannah. My wife must have

been phoning them all day, but God knows where she is. We're supposed to be going to the theatre — it is always like this. I phone up my answering machine from work to try and find out where my family is, and there are incomprehensible messages that tell me nothing.

Maurice Stein. Retired property developer and wife, Bella. Both in late 60s.

Greeting: Hello. This is the home of Maurice and Bella Stein. Please speak clearly after the music. No messages. My son bought it for us, but we're always in.



ANDREW BOURNE

ARNALDO MAGNANI/GAMMA LIAISON

The Times Christmas Appeal

The peril facing Africa's wildlife

THE poacher steadied his aim as the black rhino stumbled into the clearing and then emptied the ammunition clip from his AK47 into the animal. From 30ft he could hardly miss his prey, which was intent only in steering her calf to safety.

As the rhino buckled, two more poachers threw ropes around her back legs and the sound of a chainsaw coughing into life drowned the sound of the animal's death throes. Within minutes the poachers had slaughtered a beast far heavier and longer than their Land Rover to steal 18in of horn. The poachers then turned their attention to the calf, using the chain saw again to slice off crudely the pathetic horn.

Sue Fisher, head of conservation at the charity Tusk Force, says: "Rhino horn is so valuable that the poachers slice away the face so they can get every fraction. Once for ounce, rhino horn is worth more on the black market of some Far East countries than cocaine or gold."

At the end of the Eighties, investigators reported that rhino horn was fetching £40 a kg. Prices are said to have risen steadily since.

There remains an insatiable demand in the Far East for powdered horn, which is erroneously believed to be an aphrodisiac, and for use in traditional medicines.

Ms Fisher says: "Rhino horn can, in substantial doses, reduce fever but then so can taking an aspirin. Other claims to its efficacy remain unproven. We are seeing entire species hunted to the brink of extinction because of superstition and greed and there is not much time left if we are to save them."

The rhino population has been reduced to fewer than 11,000 since the turn of the century when more than 100,000 existed. The elephant has suffered as parlous a loss. Half the elephant population of 1.2 million was killed between 1970 and 1989 to serve the ivory market, and although this trade has been outlawed, in countries where law enforcement is weakest there remain organised gangs of poachers.

The decimation of the elephant first galvanised Tusk

Force into action in 1989, when it alerted governments and helped to establish teams of armed rangers to combat poachers in a dangerous and costly frontline war in the African bush. Since the banning of the international ivory trade in 1989 and the increase in public awareness, demand for ivory has lessened, prices have plummeted and elephant populations have stabilised.

The threat of gun battles does deter poachers but Tusk Force recognises that to stop the trade there is an urgent requirement to address consumers and change attitudes.

Ian Redmond, a biologist and Tusk Force's conservation adviser, notes: "The elephant and the rhino play an



Elephants are still in danger important role in the ecology of their habitats. Those habitats will not survive without them."

More funds are being earmarked to educating schoolchildren here and abroad so that these creatures and their habitats will have the chance to exist in more than just their picture books.

Above all, Tusk Force wants to take its message of survival to the communities whose demand for rhino horns, tiger bones, bear paws and ivory tusks keeps the unscrupulous in business.

• Credit card donations to Tusk Force can be made on 0345 414616. Cheques should be sent to Tusk Force, Ravenscourt House, 123 Askew Road, London W12 9AU.

DANIEL MCGRORY

The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, page 2

Cellphones

The name to trust in telephone shopping

CRACKING CHRISTMAS OFFERS



SIEMENS

GSM MODEL 56

- ◆ Up to 4 hrs talk-time
- ◆ Up to 30 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 200 name/number memory stored on SIM
- ◆ Lithium ion battery
- ◆ Fast recharge
- ◆ Super slim design
- ◆ Weight 165g

NOKIA

GSM MODEL 1610

- ◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- ◆ Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 200 name/number memory stored on SIM
- ◆ NiMH battery and fast travel charger
- ◆ Super slim design
- ◆ Fast recharge - 85 mins
- ◆ Weight 250g

ONLY £9.99

INC VAT
• FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
• FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH £55

INC VAT
• FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
• FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH £55



VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

WITH ONE SECOND BILLING

- Credit card
• Adapter/charger
• Free leather case
TOGETHER WORTH £55

ONLY £19.99

- FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
• FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH £55



£10
Once your phone has been connected, return the £10 tag to Vodafone PersonalWorld to receive £10 off your next bill.

FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP
Save money on shopping, leisure and pleasure with the Countdown Direct Advantage Card.

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
YOUR PHONE IS COVERED BY OUR 14 DAYS NO QUibble MONEY BACK PROMISE AND LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY.

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 5889. (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS)

PersonalWorld peak times are 8.00-20.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory standard billing will be charged at £1.77 inc VAT per month. Line rental (billed monthly in advanced and airline charges will be debited to your nominated credit/charge or Delta card. Calls charge in 1 second units. Offer subject to standard airline contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 125 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond upon Thames TW9 4JL. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2995222.

IT'S A CRACKER

A Corby Trouser Press is an inspired Christmas gift. It makes both giver and receiver look good. Choose from a range of models and finishes starting from around £76.

COREY TROUSER PRESS

AUSTIN REED · BENTALLS · SELECTED BURTON
MEISSENWEAR · HARRODS · HOUSE OF FRASER ·
JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP · SELFRIDGES · OR FOR
OTHER STOCKISTS CALL FREE 0800 220 351

LINES, WRINKLES & ACNE SCARS
(REDUCED AND REMOVED BY LASER)

In one, or possibly two treatment sessions, our laser skin rejuvenation treatment can reduce and remove your lines, wrinkles and acne scars, tightening and restoring your skin back to a smooth youthful appearance.

Even those "bleeding" lipstick lines around the lips and loose skin and "crow's feet" lines around the eyes can be reduced and removed.

In fact, skin blemishes and acne scars can also be effectively removed by one of our experienced laser FRCS surgeons.

For a confidential consultation with one of our experienced nurses, without charge, contact us now.

OTHER PROCEDURES INCLUDE BODY, BREAST, NOSE, FACE AND EAR RESHAPE, EYELID SURGERY, CELLULITE AND FAT REMOVAL, VARICOSE AND THREAD VEIN REMOVAL, LASER TREATMENTS FOR SMOKING PROBLEMS ALSO SPECIALISED SKIN CARE RANGE.

THE HARLEY MEDICAL GROUP

6 Harley Street, London WIN 1AA.
LONDON: 0171 631 5494
BIRMINGHAM: 0121 440 6622
BRIGHTON: 01273 324061
MANCHESTER: 0161 839 2527

Ski USA with Virgin Snow
Let's go to the slopes that are virgin on the internet!

7 nights from £349*
January and February departures

Nights to San Francisco
for lake tahoe ski areas

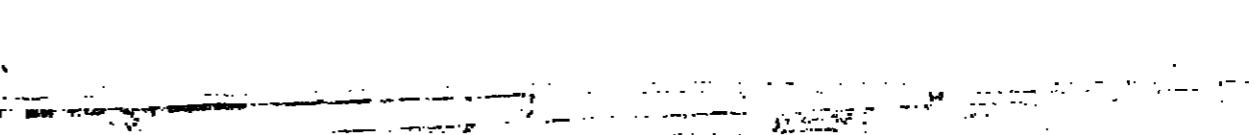
Nights to Los Angeles
for Mammoth Lakes
ski areas

Nights to Boston
New Hampshire
ski areas

Nights, Car & Hotel
Included, 7, 10 & 14
nights available.

Subject to availability
normal booking conditions apply
valid for departures to Jan - Oct
Car hire and flights not included
on all packages, subject to availability
and may be subject to change
at short notice.

Push to book



2004: a British odyssey leaves the EU behind

Robert Schuettinger offers a rosier vision of our island story than Sir Roy Denman's scenario last week

A brief note for the re-elected American President Jack Kemp in 2004.

Mr President: you asked me for a memorandum on the European Union and the United Kingdom before your meeting with Prime Minister Michael Portillo next month.

As you know, the ill-fated European monetary union went ahead (against the advice of many of Europe's well-wishers, including yourself) in 1999 while Al Gore was still President. Only five nations qualified for membership even after the criteria were fudged so as to be almost meaningless. Britain stuck to its negotiated opt-out.

Portillo's hand was strengthened by the British referendum of 1996 which decisively rejected a single currency and a federal Europe. The remaining nations also refused to join the EMU — wisely, as it turned out.

Only a few months after the first (and last) wave established the EMU, the weakening French economy forced the new European Central Bank in Frankfurt to raise interest rates sharply across the EMU member states. Unemployment rose to 19 per cent in France, 16 per cent in the Benelux nations and 13 per cent in Germany. The ensuing strikes and armed conflicts (Corsica declared its independence) led to a bloodless military coup in France which was seen as the only alternative to anarchy.

A fairly sensible general proclaimed the Sixth Republic (with the support of the trade unions), and has been ruling by decree for four years. The new French Government, however, withdrew from the EMU, the European Union, Nato and the United Nations. France's permanent seat on the Security Council was given to the European Union; their ambassador abstains on most issues, since the EU has never been able to agree on a common foreign policy.

The costs of the EMU, added to the huge subsidies provided to both the old German Democratic Republic and the economically declining members of the EU, proved too much for the recently united Germany. Ironically enough, the EU has long encouraged "regionalism" as a way of weakening the sovereign states of Europe. The larger Länder of Germany and the regions of Italy moved to assert themselves as the only way (as they saw it) to survive. Italy peacefully divided into three nations (which were admitted to the EU) in 2000 and most observers believe a similar reversion to mid-19th century conditions will soon occur in Germany.

Needless to say, any concerns about German "domination" of Europe (whether well-founded or not) are now redundant. However, the resulting disunity at the heart of Europe creates new dangers akin to the many problems after the break-up of the Soviet Union of Yugoslavia and of the Warsaw Pact.

The obvious unworkability of a federal union only pushed the remaining Europeans into

overdrive. The Treaty of Aachen, in 2001, created an Executive President with powers similar to those of the President of the French Fifth Republic. The European Parliament, representing the remaining member nations, elected as President a former agriculture minister of Luxembourg, and as Vice-President Kenneth Clarke, a citizen of a non-member nation.

Naturally, the competitiveness of the transformed European Union sank to new lows. Average unemployment in the remaining member states rose to the 30 per cent mark. Britain had been receiving 40 per cent of all inward investment in the old EU. In 2000, when Portillo, supported by a majority of the major parties, took Britain out of the EU entirely, inward investment rose to a 70 per cent share of the old EU. As a diplomatic goodwill gesture towards its former "partners", the UK remained a member of Efta.

Britain's enterprise culture (many fewer regulations and more flexible labour markets) and the English language (important to North American and Asian investors) were major factors in this economic boom, the overriding reason, however, was that Britain, since 2000, has been the only stable and reliable nation in Europe. This year Britain has the highest average wages and income per capita in all of Europe; in the past four years the UK economy has created almost as many jobs, proportionately, as the United States.

Norway never joined the EU and has long been prosperous. After Britain left, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Austria quickly followed. In 2001 Portillo negotiated Britain's entry into the North American Free Trade Association (now the North Atlantic Free Trade Association). Portillo then successfully pressed for the admission of the four Scandinavian nations.

In 2002 Portillo and his Foreign Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, visited Beijing just after the Chinese Revolution established the first democratic Government in Chinese history. Portillo and Rifkind, in round-the-clock meetings with representatives of the Asian "tigers" and Japan, created the Asian Free Trade Area, with Britain as the only European member.

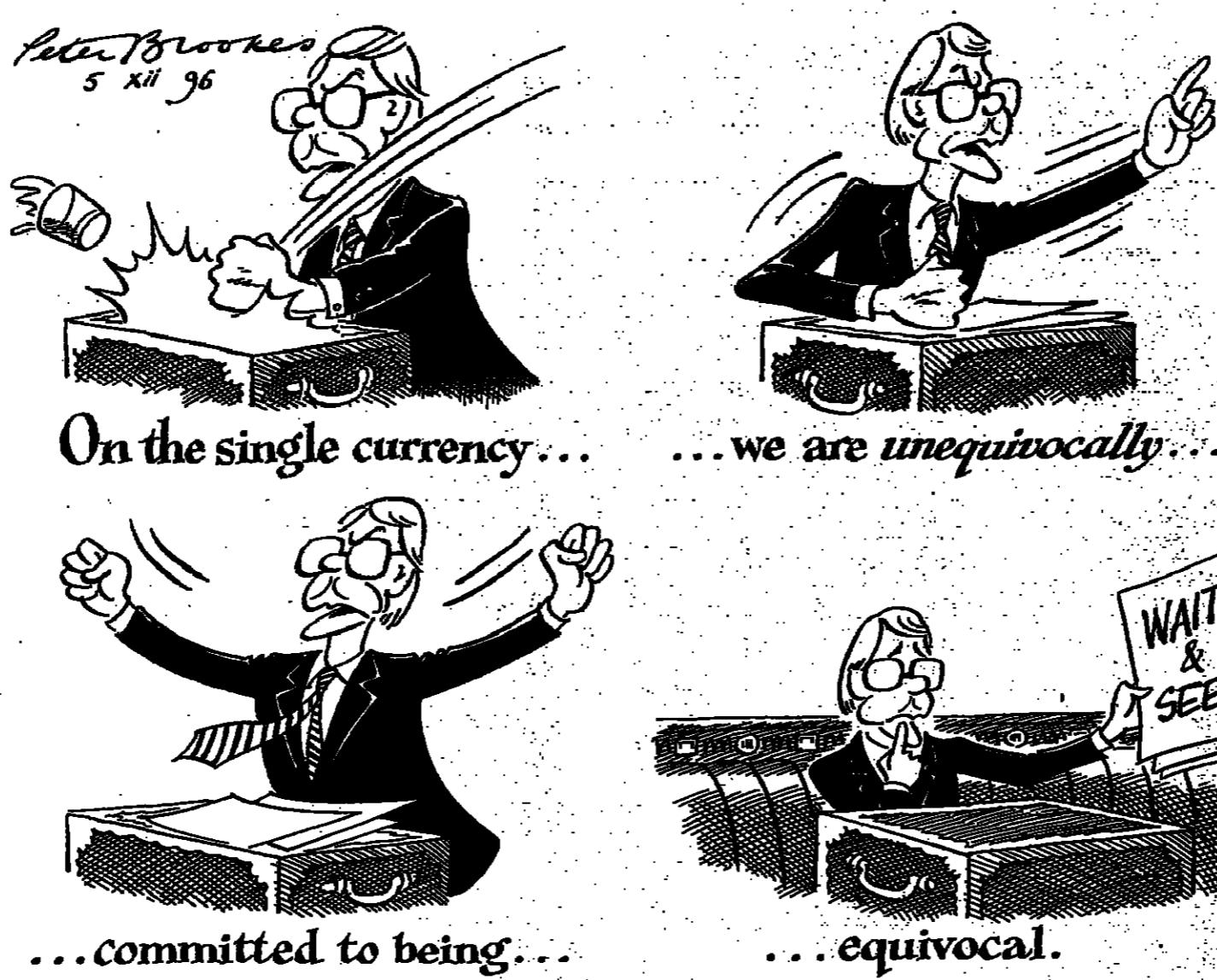
Britain's standing in world affairs has never been higher.

It seems undeniable that it is the most stable and reliable of all our major allies on all continents.

I believe you should take very seriously what the PM will say. His main objective is to work out a Portillo plan whereby both major trading blocs (and perhaps Russia) will work to prevent the collapse of the present EU. It is clearly in all our interests to see a stable and prosperous Europe. We shall have to work with the British some strict conditions. They will be helpful intermediaries between North America, Asia and the European Union.

André Durand, a Paris-based

assistant director for National Security Affairs under President Reagan in 1980-81 and had earlier worked for Congressman Jack Kemp.



Why Scott had to go

Kensington and Chelsea Tories did not reject a lightweight, but a defender of Rab Butler's liberal Conservatism

I have known Nicholas Scott for some 35 years. I first met him at the time of my marriage. My father-in-law was the Mayor of St Pancras in 1962; we held the reception in the splendid St Pancras Town Hall, with its flight of marble stairs and old associations with George Bernard Shaw. Nick came because he had become a friend of my wife's family as a fellow member of the old Holborn and St Pancras Council.

The following year he was a successful national chairman of the Young Conservatives. Both he and I were supporters of Rab Butler in the 1963 leadership contest. I think he found my rejection of the Alec Douglas-Home leadership too vehement for his taste. He always had a feeling for party unity, as he does now.

Undoubtedly Nick has had bad luck in politics and life only a part of that has been in any way his fault. His star was in the ascendant in 1970 when he was appointed parliamentary private secretary to Iain Macleod, a powerful figure who planned to be a reforming Chancellor. Within a few weeks Iain had died. Later Ted Heath brought Nick into his Government. Within a few weeks Heath was no longer Prime Minister.

A year later there was a new leader, Margaret Thatcher, who saw Nick Scott as on the wrong wing of her party. She found him a useful and resolute minister, particularly in Northern Ireland, but kept him firmly out of the Cabinet. Her 11 years in office eclipsed the prospects of his career. Nevertheless, Nick Scott did have the potential to be a major politician.

I believe you should take very seriously what the PM will say. His main objective is to work out a Portillo plan whereby both major trading blocs (and perhaps Russia) will work to prevent the collapse of the present EU. It is clearly in all our interests to see a stable and prosperous Europe. We shall have to work with the British some strict conditions. They will be helpful intermediaries between North America, Asia and the European Union.

André Durand, a Paris-based

assistant director for National Security Affairs under President Reagan in 1980-81 and had earlier worked for Congressman Jack Kemp.

for instance, if Iain Macleod had lived. Nick might well have been in a Macleod Cabinet in the 1970s, and might have ended his career as a Willie Whitelaw figure, genial, supine, shrewd, close to the sources of power, perhaps a liberal Home Secretary. If Heath had won in 1974, and he nearly did, Nick's career would also have prospered.

At any rate, I have always liked him, though our political views have drifted quite far apart. Nick was never convinced by the monetarist revolution of the 1970s, nor by the opposition to Maastricht well before the treaty was signed. The significance of Nick's rejection by his constituency can only be understood if one recognises that he is a significant political figure, and could have been a greater force in the Conservative Party than he ever actually was. Kensington and Chelsea have not rejected a lightweight, as the closeness of all the votes has shown. Nick has still had his fans, and justifiably so.

Part of the constituency argument was about the personal issues which lay on the surface. I am surprised that anyone can spend 30 years in the House of Commons, let alone a few years in Northern Ireland, without acquiring some tendency to fall over from time to time. It is, in the risk of taking excessive refreshment, a most terrible place. If one listens to the debates, one is soon driven out again by the cumbrous sophistries of second-rate minds. The bars are always open; there are endless hours of waiting, gossiping obsessively about who may be the next Prime Minister, and exchanging rounds of drinks. The parliamentary life is as conducive to excessive liquor as that of a barman on a cruise liner.

There was also the delicate problem of reconciling Kensington with Chelsea after the constituencies

merged. In my mother's youth, in the Irish American world of the 1890s, the great division came between the lace curtain and the saloon bar. My mother's family were distinctly lace curtain, and disapproved of the capers of the saloon keepers. In the same way Kensington is lace curtain and Chelsea is distinctly saloon bar, "with a twinkle in my eye".

Once, long before Nick Scott's time, I was shortlisted for the Conservative nomination for Chelsea and went down to see them. They then seemed to me to be a charming afternoon people, the sort one might expect to drink brandy and soda on a trip to the Derby in a vintage Rolls-Royce. Kensington is much more severe. Some once wrote that I was the only person who wore double-breasted pyjamas; they wear black tie with their pyjamas in Kensington. I doubt whether Nick was ever the ideal person to mediate the culture clash of the boroughs.

Yet the real point of division was not the Kensington/Chelsea divide, but a much more important difference inside the Conservative Party. Nick Scott's Conservatism was new when I first met him, but is now old. His is the moderate, liberal, consensus Conservatism of the 1960s; it is like that of Kenneth Clarke, it is a rather gender version of the politics of Michael Heseltine. Nick is Europeanist in the style of the early 1970s, though he has always been far more of a party loyalist than Ted Heath has been for 20 years. I can well understand Nick's politics since I shared many of these attitudes in the 1960s, and I still find attractive in him which inspires his group.

The difference lies between those Conservatives who internalised the experience of the Thatcher years and those who have ultimately rejected it, either on pro-European grounds like Geoffrey Howe, or on more general grounds like Nick Scott. Monday night's vote rejected the liberal Conservatism of the 1960s in favour of the post-Thatcherite Conservatism which is emerging in the 1990s.

It is too early to be sure what the full character of that is going to be, but it will certainly address such issues as the size of the State, the level of taxation, the organisation of welfare and national independence, issues on which the Conservatism of the 1960s has little to say. Iain Macleod would certainly have faced these issues because he was, in fact, more of a radical than a liberal, but they did not arise in their present form in his time.

The Kensington and Chelsea constituents to whom I have spoken were all more concerned about issues of policy than about personal conduct, which many of them would have overlooked if they had agreed with Nick Scott's politics. There is always a great deal of tolerance for a man of friendly, easygoing nature. We know he would forgive us, so we tend to forgive him.

The rumour that Chris Patten might take over the seat in a by-election if the Conservatives lost at the general election was also damaging, both to Nick Scott and to Chris Patten. That is not the sort of manoeuvre constituents like. In Britain Patten is still seen as the left-of-centre Conservative he used to be, though his Hong Kong speeches show that experience has changed him. Kensington and Chelsea would, I think, never have accepted the arrangement I am not even sure that it was ever contemplated.

The real parallel to the rejection of Nick Scott is the isolation of Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. They have managed to bully John Major into endorsing their line on the euro. The Conservatives will now go into the election refusing to say whether they intend to join a single currency or not. This is not what Major wants, nor at all what the Cabinet wants, nor at all what the candidates want.

The damage to their election prospects must be very great. Nick Scott has lost his seat because he no longer represents what Conservatives think. He has not changed his views as events have changed. Yet Kenneth Clarke is equally anachronistic and far more dangerous. The Conservative Party has rejected Nick Scott in Kensington and Chelsea and would be equally happy to reject Kenneth Clarke in Westminster.

Plagues and public confidence
Scots health officers failed to stop a food poisoning panic, says Magnus Linklater

As the Great Plague swept London in the summer of 1665, wild rumours abounded. Samuel Pepys decided he had better not wear his new periwig to go with his coloured silk suit because he had bought it in Westminster, where the disease was now rife. He even wondered whether the plague would put an end to the fashion for powdered wigs, because everyone was convinced that infected human hair was being used to make them.

There is a whiff of that kind of panic reaction since the outbreak of *E. coli* poisoning in Scotland and of meningitis in Wales. The immediate instinct of some students at Cardiff was to quit the campus, putting as much distance as possible between them and the seat of the infection. The inevitable result was to spread the fear. In Scotland, things are worse. A series of shambolic decisions, or non-decisions, by local health boards has meant that uncertainty has bred faster than the bacterium itself.

Of course, a sense of proportion is important: the Plague of London killed 60,000 people in the city out of a population of 450,000. So far seven people have died in Scotland; two in Wales. But the irony is that while we know more about bacteria than the 17th century ever dreamt of, we are still caught unawares when they decide to strike. One reason is the insidious way in which new strains infiltrate our best defences.

Meningitis, group C, has to be treated swiftly, yet is difficult to diagnose. *E. coli* 1057 has, over the past decade, mutated into a virulent form which breeds faster than its more harmless relatives. Professor Hugh Pennington, who is heading the inquiry into the *E. coli* outbreak in Lanarkshire, admitted on Radio Scotland that no one quite knew why.

But it is not ignorance which has allowed the infection to spread; it is a failure of the system set up to combat it. We pay around £200 million a year for a variety of institutions and services aimed at making food safe; we have high-powered central monitoring systems like the Centre for Infection and Environmental Health in Scotland or the Public Health Laboratory Services in England, which employs 3,000 people including scientists, microbiologists and epidemiologists. But at the grass roots, where it counts, there is a all too often a lack of management skills and organisation.

There is one school of thought which says that we are all over-reacting — one small outbreak, not many affected, was the argument put last week by the writer A.N. Wilson, who said that only "a handful" of Scots had died, and complained that James Naughtie on the *Today* programme "spoke as if it was a matter of national interest that a few of his fellow-countrymen had the runs".

Not surprisingly, that crass remark caused great offence. It also ignored the serious implications of what has happened. The fatal five-day delay in revealing to the public the names of outlets to which contaminated meat had been sent has yet to be properly explained; now it emerges that the butcher at the centre of the scare was allowed to carry on supplying cooked meats to customers after his premises had been identified as the source of contaminated food.

Police have been called in, not just to see whether criminal proceedings are needed, but because they alone have access to the Home Office computer system which is needed to follow up the whereabouts of newly identified patients, explore their eating habits, and find out with whom they have been in contact.

Most suspicion has fallen inevitably on the butcher, John Barr of Wishaw, where the contamination is supposed to have taken place. But the real failure lies with local authorities, and ultimately the Scottish Office. In any place where raw meat, which carries the bacterium, and cooked meat which should kill it, exist together, there are clear rules which no butcher knowingly breaks. Health officers are there to ensure that this happens, but also to control the effects of any contamination. Here they failed. They failed to contain the outbreak once it was identified, and they failed to reassure the public once it had spread.

Why should this be in a country which once led Europe in standards of public health? The answer is that, despite all the reassurances offered by the Scottish Office, public health has dropped down the list of spending priorities. That celebrated figure, the Medical Officer of Health who inspired such awe in countless episodes of *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, no longer exists.

Instead, we have a system of environmental health officers and consultants, operating with small staffs, inadequate back-up, and an absence of managerial skills. They have no clear status, mandate or hierarchy. In those circumstances the present outbreak was a disaster waiting to happen.

Mr Barr, whose business has now been destroyed, may prove to be as much a victim of the system as those who have been stricken. We must wait to see where the inquiry points the finger of blame. I think I already know the answer.

Tight spot

AN ANSWER at last to the eternal question of what judges wear under their robes: ladies' stockings. The news comes from one of the highest-ranking judges in Britain, Mr Justice Hooper, of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

In a documentary, *The Verdict*, to be broadcast on BBC2 next week, Mr Justice Hooper talks of the problems of tights: "When I was first appointed as a silk and

had to be sworn in, I bought a pair of ladies' tights, and I think that most judges feel that is the only way because people don't make silk stockings any longer."

He then hit upon "thigh highs", stockings with an elasticated top around the thigh, to help them to stay up. "I do prefer those to tights, which I find very uncomfortable. Whether it's my anatomy or the male anatomy I leave for others to decide, but tights seem to sort of gradually slip down."

Judge's clerk Tim Nutt confirms the judicial penchant for stockings rather than tights: "The judges have found that these were less restrictive," he explains, adding that he shops at Debenhams' ladies' departments on behalf of his bosses. Edie Ravnscroft, supplier of legal robes, takes a dim view of stockings: "We sell heavy black nylon tights, the kind generally worn by ballet dancers. They cover a multitude of sins," a spokesman said.

For guidance, I turned to Lord Hallifax of St Marylebone, firmly in the stocking camp: "I used to wear two pairs of stockings on each leg," he says. "A cotton pair underneath and a silk pair on top.

"Any chance of getting at that water on the Moon?"



THE SECRET of President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire's hairdressing habits are laid bare. The ailing leader has been flying in his stylist from New York every fortnight for a trim at his palace in the South of France. Perhaps only Bill Clinton, who once closed down Los Angeles airport for an emergency blow-dry on Air Force One while the plane remained on the runway, takes presidential hair so seriously.

Mobutu's concern for his coif is not merely a question of vanity, however. National security is at stake. Mobutu's couriers fear that a Zairean barber would use the clippings for *must*, or African witch-doctoring.

"They showed enthusiastic approval," concedes the pinstripe modestly. "I've spoken to four constituents so far, none of them wildly Euro-sceptic and only one person out of six hundred has so far disagreed with me." Back at the

prices of Manhattan are beyond his reach. Gorgeous George, the diminutive but highly eligible former Rhodes scholar, who complained recently in *Vanity Fair* of being in debt, is struggling to sell his expensive apartment near Washington's Dupont Circle.

The duplex at the centre of controversy over his personal funds, is on the market with no takers for a handsome \$1.2 million (about £750,000). To add to his woes, Wendy Smith, his White House girlfriend, has apparently abandoned plans of joining him in New York.

P.H.S.

Henley association, the news was greeted with astonishment. "It's the first we've heard of this," panted an official, loyal to our man-hairied hero.

Hairy scary

THE PRINCE will be dressed in flowing red robes, his face smeared in the stag's spent blood and Balmoral Castle will nestle sweetly in the snow-capped peaks behind.

CASHING IN

Michael Heseltine faces a revolt on Europe in his Henley constituency. Businessmen affiliated to the local Conservative Association recently invited Bill Cash, pin-striped Euro-basher and MP for Stafford, to give a talk on Maastricht etc. Cash was cheered to the rafters.

"They showed enthusiastic approval," concedes the pinstripe modestly. "I've spoken to four constituents so far, none of them wildly Euro-sceptic and only one person out of six hundred has so far disagreed with me." Back at the

prices of Manhattan are beyond his reach. Gorgeous George, the diminutive but highly eligible former Rhodes scholar, who complained recently in *Vanity Fair* of being in debt, is struggling to sell his expensive apartment near Washington's Dupont Circle.

The duplex at the centre of controversy over his personal funds, is on the market with no takers for a handsome \$1.2 million (about £750,000). To add to his woes, Wendy Smith, his White House girlfriend, has apparently abandoned plans of joining him in New York.

P.H.S.



TEST OF TIME

A return to rigorous examinations is demonstrably overdue

Traditionalists have long suspected that the main reason for the rising pass rates in GCSE and A level is one that no parent, and no responsible teacher, should support: the examinations have simply been getting easier. Teachers have responded with indignation at this supposed slur on their profession. In *Standards over Time*, the report published today by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Government hoped to come up with evidence that would settle the argument one way or the other. But one of the most disturbing findings is that no accurate comparison is possible between results achieved and standards required 20 years ago, and those that obtain today.

This is not just because examination boards have not kept systematic records of examination answers and marking systems, to set alongside question papers. It is because the papers themselves, and the syllabuses followed by students, are as apples to oranges.

The inquiry looked at syllabuses, the papers set and — where these had not been thrown away by the boards — examination scripts in three core subjects: English, maths and chemistry. Only in maths were they able to show that standards in pure maths have declined, along with skills in such core disciplines as algebra and problem-solving: but that is mainly because the maths syllabus has remained relatively constant. Even over maths, dispute continues, with liberal teachers arguing that students are covering a wider field. Gillian Shephard will report that this is no excuse for falling short in basic pencil-and-paper numeracy — lost to the calculator — or the mental discipline that algebra in particular imparts. She is right, and action must follow.

In English, two findings stand out: the loss of language skills; and the way in which literature syllabuses have drifted away from the traditional canon based on Chaucer, schools can shop around among 45 competing maths courses.

In subject after subject, British universities are finding that students need American-style "foundation year" coaching to reach the levels required for first-year courses. In office after office, employers complain of lack of basic skills. Understanding and creativity are delightful ornaments; but they must be built on memory — a skill most easily learned young — and on respect for facts and mental discipline.

BOHEMIAN GHOSTS

It is time to draw a line under the Sudetenland shame

For some 60 years, much blood and ink has been spilt over the Sudetenland. The ghost of Munich still stalks *Mitteleuropa*, and this bloodstained Bohemian-German border area most of all. At a meeting at Lisbon this week, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Czech Prime Minister, Vaclav Klaus, agreed the broad outlines of a declaration which is intended to draw a line under the Nazi annexations and the Czech expulsions. Officials have been wrangling for two years, but the German Chancellor recently demanded a deal by Christmas. It looks as if Herr Kohl will get his wish.

The prewar Sudetenlanders were largely German-speaking, and most resisted assimilation into Czechoslovakia after the break-up of the Habsburg empire. Their desire to be reunited with the German Reich provided Adolf Hitler with a pretext to undermine a well-armed neighbour, then the only democracy in Central Europe, while testing British and French resistance to his expansionary demands. At Munich Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier agreed to give Germany the Sudetenland, so depriving the Czechs of the means to defend their frontier. Hitler was hailed by the vast majority of Sudeten Germans. In March 1939 Hitler annexed Bohemia and Moravia, set up a puppet regime in Slovakia and ceded Ruthenia to his Hungarian allies.

Czechoslovakia had been extinguished as a nation state. One of the first Nazi atrocities to receive worldwide publicity was the destruction of Lidice and its male inhabitants in 1942 as a reprisal for the assassination of Heydrich, ruler of Bohemia and architect of the Final Solution.

When the German armies were finally

driven out in 1945, and the Second Czechoslovak Republic established under Benes, hostility towards the Sudeten Germans — seen as a Nazi fifth column — was understandable. It boiled over when up to three million of them were expelled in conditions of great brutality during the winter of 1945-46. All lost their property and many their lives. Ever since, the Sudeten Germans have formed a powerful revisionist lobby in Bonn, where their interests are championed by the Bavarian Christian Social Union, under the late Franz Josef Strauss and now Herr Kohl's Finance Minister, Theo Waigel. After the Communist coup in 1948, Prague pretended the Sudeten Germans had not existed for four decades; Bonn was equally deaf to Czech claims. Only after the Velvet Revolution in 1989 could the new President, Vaclav Havel, in a noble gesture, offer his respects to the dispossessed Sudeten Germans. That began to melt the ice, but the Klaus Government has had to tread the path of reconciliation carefully, all the more so since losing its majority earlier this year.

Nobody comes well out of this tale of betrayal, conquest, ethnic cleansing and denial. After a thousand years of mostly mutual respect, Germans and Czechs did terrible things to one another in the Thirties and Forties; neither nation has yet fully acknowledged its guilt. The new German-Czech declaration, whose terms are still secret, will not resolve the vexed questions of war crimes and property rights. But Prague is eager to join the EU and needs Bonn's support; for his part, Herr Kohl seems keen to tame this ancient boil. The peoples of Europe should respond: it is high time.

ANGLING ENEMIES

They don't shoot fellow fishers, do they?

The cormorant is famous for its love of fish. So, in his different ways, is the fisherman. The object of their loves has only the scaly choice between the beak of the former and the hooks of the latter. But, as we report today, a fish war has now broken out between anglers and cormorants. An underground culling campaign has begun, with anglers in combat camouflage shooting cormorants stealthily and illegally by night.

The provisional wing of the angling army has might if not right on its side. The latest *Economist* statistic report that 4 per cent of the adult population of Britain claims to go fishing in one form or another at least once a quarter. Even allowing for the extravagance of fishermen's claims, angling is the country's biggest participant sport. About four million fishermen of all sorts take part in activities that cost £1 billion and employ 80,000.

The cormorant too, however, is a wonder of nature. It is descended from high up the evolutionary family tree and is the most perfectly adapted predator for operating in the elements of air, water and land. The Japanese even ring it as a surrogate fisherman with a ring around its neck to force it to disgorge its catch. Cormorants have been caught in traps in the Lake District more than 120 ft beneath the surface. The cause of war is the cormorant's voracity. Its daily intake of fish averages 14-25 oz, equivalent to 15 per cent of its body weight. It catches fish that are not normally eaten for

choice by human beings — but then, so do the anglers. Angling organisations allege that cormorants devour fish worth £1 million a year and that their clubs face ruin.

So they want cormorants taken off the protected list and classed as vermin through emendation of the 1981 Wildlife and Fisheries Act and several EU directives. This month's angling press carries such headlines as "Wipe out the Black Plague", and the president of the National Federation of Anglers is quoted as saying that "the short-term answer to the problem is to shoot the bloody things". Anglers at the Fritton Lake park in Norfolk employ a certain Margaret Thatcher (an American bald eagle with a 7ft wingspan) to scare off the cormorants.

Although anglers are at pains to distance themselves from other field sports, angling is a true survival of man's activity as hunter-gatherer. But the cormorants have been at the game longer and are better adapted to it.

So anglers must learn to live and let live with the cormorants, as they do with such less efficient fishers as herons and kingfishers. Otherwise they will excite the attention not just of the Antis who oppose blood sports. They will also sound the alarm to the nation's bird-lovers, who outnumber even anglers and are even more dedicated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Straight talking on future of EU

From Mr R. J. Whitnell

Sir, With its lack of suitable plans for alternatives, should not the policy of "wait and see" be described rather as "wait till it's too late"?

Yours truly,
R. J. WHITNELL,
13 East Street,
Mancot, Cambridgeshire,
December 4.

From Mr John Davis

Sir, Mr A. D. Gatling (letter, November 29) complains that we have been deceived for 25 years about the nature of the EEC/EU.

But who deceived Mr Gatling and those like him? Not the Europeans, who have never concealed the essentially federal nature of the union and its aspirations for ever closer integration. It has been our own political leaders. Some knew and were very economical with the truth. Some never bothered to find out.

I am at a loss to understand why Euro-sceptics outside Parliament are so keen to restore unfettered freedom of action to these snake-oil salesmen. Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIS,
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey.

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip, Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, You have done your readers a signal service in reprinting today much of Sir Roy Denman's suggested briefing note on Britain and Europe for a newly-elected President of the US in 2004. It demonstrates that those who have been campaigning against the process of "ever closer union" as set out in the Maastricht treaty are not fitting at windmills.

What is so depressing is not so much that a former high official of the European Union, who was at the heart of its policy and representation to the outside world in the 1980s, should be so candid about the federal destiny of the organisation for which he used to work. Rather the causes for concern are Sir Roy's defeatism about the prospects for the United Kingdom and his assumption that exclusion from the European Union would relegate Britain to second-class status in Europe.

Britain's aim has always been to secure a coalition of interests to counterbalance a preponderant central power on the Continent. Small countries can be economically successful without being politically absorbed into their continental hinterland. Chile, Taiwan and Singapore are good examples. In the case of Singapore it was leaving the Malaysian Federation which proved the spur to its spectacular and enviable economic growth.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
House of Commons,
November 29.

From Mr J. B. da Silva

Sir, "Britain in 2004: out on a limb?" sounds rather like Switzerland. Would that be so dire?

Yours truly,
JOHN DA SILVA,
Close Close, Virginia Water, Surrey,
November 29.

From Lord Monson

Sir, In his vigorous clarion call for Britain to leave the EU (article, November 26) my cross-bench colleague Lord Wyndham of Weordford makes one small, if common, error: asserting that "We are obliged to shore up poor countries such as Greece, Portugal and Spain."

Yes, we are obliged by EU rules to help shore up these three countries, plus the Irish Republic. But no, they are not "poor" by world or even European (in the correct sense) standards. The worthy goal of friendship and free trade with our neighbours should not involve British taxpayers having to subsidise countries in the top quartile of the global prosperity league.

Yours faithfully,
MONSON,
House of Lords.

Bar on handguns

From Mr Laurie Hinds

Sir, I was proud to join the several thousand of fellow sportsmen in Hyde Park on Sunday (News in brief, December 2) rallying for the preservation of handgun target shooting. Proud also to see Ms Carol Page, our competitor in handgun shooting at the Atlanta Olympic Games, take centre stage on the platform.

But I was sad that irrational, emotional and ill-informed bias has resulted in proposals to ban most handguns and destroy a sport in which this country can be justly proud of its achievements. Sad, too, that the wheelchair-bound shooters who joined the rally will no longer have a sport in which they compete on an equal basis with the rest of us: sad that the compensation in excess of £100 million which will be paid to gun owners will not apply to the many businesses which will collapse and even sadder that such funding will not be put to more constructive use in our society.

Yours faithfully,
LAURIE HINDS,
4 Mayfair Gardens,
Woodford Green, Essex,
December 2.

Search for Aids vaccine a 'priority'

From the Director of the National Aids Trust

Sir, Your leading article in support of World Aids Day (December 2) is most welcome and most of its points are very well made.

However, there is one claim that bears closer examination. When you assert that "the overriding priority of Western governments is the search for a vaccine", it must be said that there is little evidence to support this, although there have recently been assertions by President Clinton and his Health Secretary, Donna Shalala, that vaccine research should indeed be accorded a much higher priority.

As a matter of record, only a small fraction of public research funds in the United States have been allocated directly to vaccine work, yet even that outweighs the combined efforts of the rest of the world.

When private and commercial investments are taken into account, the picture is even worse. The market for vaccines is perceived to be in countries that cannot afford to pay for them, and is assessed as being smaller than that for just one comparatively minor drug.

Although a number of promising approaches exist — and some have been identified by British researchers funded by our own Medical Research Council — they appear to be languishing for lack of private investors prepared to join in partnerships with a view to bringing them to market. Furthermore, as emphasised by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative launched earlier this year in Vancouver, there has been an over-concentration of the little vaccine research that has been done on the one rather peculiar subtype of HIV that is common in Europe and North America, at the expense of the other subtypes which affect the majority of people with HIV worldwide.

No one would argue that vaccine research should be pursued at the expense of all other approaches. There is

much to be achieved in HIV and Aids prevention globally by improving treatment for other sexually transmitted diseases and for tuberculosis, through condom provision, screening of blood transfusions and education programmes. Similarly, research on treatments has a long way to go before there will be genuinely practicable and affordable options for the majority of people with HIV.

However, it is an increasingly widespread expert view that current efforts towards HIV vaccine research are grossly inadequate and that vaccines should be accorded a much higher priority.

The British Government's record in this area has been better than many, and it may be time to review how as a society we could make an even stronger contribution to the long-term goal of eradicating HIV and Aids.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BODELL,
Director,
National Aids Trust,
New City Clusters,
189-196 Old Street, EC1.
December 2.

From the Chief Executive of the Terence Higgins Trust

Sir, I welcome your leading article "Day of Aids". You rightly point out that panic and paranoia often shape the response to this virus and recognise the continued importance of Aids education programmes and safer-sex campaigns, however difficult and at times controversial these are to run.

World Aids Day is also an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of the ultimate goal of finding a vaccine and to ask why this research is being starved of funds.

Yours sincerely,
NICK PARTHURIDGE,
Chief Executive,
The Terence Higgins Trust,
52-54 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
December 2.

actual killings per week in this country, 119 wounding with guns, knives and other weapons, 188 brawls and 27 acts of sexual violence, it is not hard to see what effect this may have on a child in his or her subconscious perception of what is acceptable, even glamorous, in the adult world.

Perhaps broadcasters should turn their minds to what can effectively replace the watershed. It could be that certification plus some simple form of electronic tagging on programmes, coupled with a simple control within the TV set that would allow some categories of programmes through but not others — at parents' control — might be the way forward.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
November 25.

From Mrs Ann Taylor

Sir, How infuriating are the smug people who claim that early retirement can "set you free" — as if we are not able to work out for ourselves.

Being forcibly retired (ie, redundant) in one's early 50s with three months' salary as a "cushion" and ten years' loss (not just of earnings but of pension contributions) does not make one feel free. Of that you may be sure.

Yours faithfully,
ANN TAYLOR,
5 The Meadows,
Drinkstone, Suffolk,
November 25.

From Mr Bryan Magee

Sir, It is not news that when Hitler was young he was not, at first, anti-Semitic (report, November 26). He tells us all about this at great length in *Mein Kampf*.

When he was a teenager, he says, he found anti-Semitism repellent, and the thought that Jews had been persecuted for their religion "sometimes almost turned my distaste at unfavourable remarks about them into horror" (page 48 of the currently available English translation). He then gives us, in the most lurid terms, a step-by-step account of his conversion to anti-Semitism, including even his backslidings ("I relapsed for weeks at a time, once even for months"), p52.

According to the foundation's extensive knowledge, one case of a baby with Down's syndrome has been reported in which — upon request by the parents — doctors decided to withhold the necessary operations. I suppose that it is this single, well-known case, which was widely discussed in my country in 1987, that has led to such an offensive report.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. R. D. van ROLLEN,
Royal Netherlands Embassy,
38 Hyde Park Gate, SW1.
December 2.

Winter weather

From Mr T. L. Jose

Sir, Each year, as has been recently demonstrated, when winter sets in with bouts of snow and ice there is chaos on the roads and railways of Britain.

Surely it is time that there was a statutory obligation on highway and railway authorities to take appropriate action to minimise the effects of inclement weather conditions. The additional costs would no doubt be recouped from savings made to the National Health Service, vehicle insurance, claims and damage to road and rail fabric.

Yours faithfully,
T. L. JOSE,
22 Shelburne Place,
3 Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.
December 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Unnatural selection

From Mr Michael Davies, FRCS

Sir, Twenty years ago, when I worked in the Seychelles, the ornithological talk on *Mahe* was of the Seychelles Scops owl, which had been recently "discovered" when barn owls were introduced to combat rats (report, November 29).

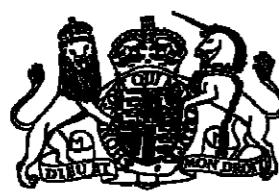
Unfortunately, fairy terms also proved irresistible to barn owls, which themselves then had to be culled. A small price was put on their heads, and among the owls collected was a Seychelles Scops owl, "extinct" in the islands since the turn of the century. (Carefully protected, it now exists in reasonable numbers.)

On that occasion, introduction of an alien species produced a bonus (though not the elimination of rats). Usually it causes disaster.

Yours sincerely,
M. DAVIES,
38 Hyde Park Gate, Beckenham, Kent.
December 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

From Mr Barrie N. Davies



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. December 4: His Excellency U Win Aung was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Union of Myanmar (Burma) to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency U Win Aung was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Cole (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Very Reverend Michael Mayne was received by The Queen upon his retirement as Dean of Westminster and delivered up his Badge of Office as Dean of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening arrived at Manchester Denegate Station and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness came to the Bridgewater Hall and were received by Councillor Derek Shaw (Lord Mayor of Manchester).

The Queen opened the Hall, and with The Duke of Edinburgh, toured the building and attended a reception before attending an inaugural concert.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this morning chaired a meeting of the Council at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. December 4: The Duke of York, Patron, the Royal Marine and Royal Navy 1997 Atlantic Rowing Team, today attended the launch of the team's boat at the Ivory House, St Katharine's Dock, London E1.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the rugby match between the Combined Services and the Argentine at the Pectory, Devonport, Plymouth, and was received by Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Gorick (Deputy Lieutenant of Devon).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. December 4: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal's Trust for Cares, this morning visited Wandsworth Carers Centre, 181 Wandsworth High Street, London SW8, and attended the Wandsworth Carers Conference at the Dryburgh Hall, Dryburgh Road, London SW5.

Her Royal Highness, President.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Cross Street, Manchester, at 11.45, and accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she will open the Humanities Building, Manchester Metropolitan University, at 12.10; and will open the Greater Manchester Police Claytonbrook Complex at 2.40.

The Duke of York will attend the lighting of the Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square at 6.00, and will attend a dinner given by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen at Fishmongers' Hall at 6.50 to mark the centenary of its Royal Charter.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Victim Support, will preside at the 14th meeting of the Advisory Board at Church House, at 9.30; and as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the Festival of Trees gala dinner at the Natural History Museum at 7.30.

this afternoon visited Save the Children Fund's Headquarters, 60 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London SW8.

The Princess Royal, Commandant in Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, later attended a briefing on "Care in the Community" at St John House, 51 Eaton Place, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, subsequently received Colonel Michael Lake upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Colonel and Colonel Nigel Gilbert upon assuming the appointment.

The Princess Royal this evening present the Torch Trophy Trust's Annual Awards at Simpson (Piccadilly) Limited, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, later presided over a Dinner at St James's Palace for the Heads of Delegation attending a conference on the implementation of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

CLARENCE HOUSE. December 4: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, a Master of the Middle Temple, was pleased to dine with her fellow Benchers at the Middle Temple this evening.

The Lady Grimthorpe and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE. December 4: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Stephen Lampert and Lieutenant-Commander John Lawrence RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE. December 4: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Colonel Michael Lake upon relinquishing the appointment of Regimental Colonel and Colonel Nigel Gilbert on assuming the appointment.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK. December 4: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society, this morning visited the Lancaster and Morecambe Centre in Albert Road, Morecambe, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire Sir Simon Towneley.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, this afternoon presided at ceremonies for the conferment of Higher Degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas at Lancaster University.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr Michael Parker to be a Sergeant-at-Arms to Her Majesty in succession to Mr Peter Hartley.

Today's royal engagements

A Requiem Mass for Sir Henry Neville will be celebrated in Lincoln Cathedral on Wednesday, January 28, at noon. All are welcome.

Tickets from Clerk to the Lieutenant, County Office, Newland, Lincoln, LNI 1YL.

DR BERNARD ROSE. A memorial service for Dr Bernard William George Rose will be held in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford, on Saturday, February 1, 1997, at 3pm.

RECEPTION. "Not Forgotten" Association.

Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig of Radley, Admiral Sir David Williams, and Commandant Antinea Larken, Presidents of the "Not Forgotten" Association, attended the annual Christmas party for disabled ex-service men and women held yesterday at St James's Palace.

THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL. Mr William D. Rogers was the speaker at a forum arranged by the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom at Atlantic House, SW1, last night. Mr Alan Lee Williams presided.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood on 29th November 1996, much loved and respected father of Christopher, Alan, Jane and George, grandfather to Edward, Sophie, Elose and Matilda, good friend to many. Funeral service at 2.15pm St Matthews, Wareham, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations to Save the Children.

DAWES. - George William Dawes peacefully on St John's Wood

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MARTYN JOPE

Martyn Jope, FBA, Professor of Archaeology at the Queen's University of Belfast, 1961-81, died on November 14 aged 80. He was born on December 28, 1915.

A biochemist by training but an archaeologist by inclination, Martyn Jope might have made a distinguished career in either field. In the end, he chose archaeology. Already in the 1930s he was making formative contributions to the then emerging discipline of medieval archaeology. In 1949, after a productive decade as a research biochemist, he founded and for 32 years headed the Department of Archaeology at Queen's, Belfast.

His contribution to Irish archaeology — mostly in the medieval and post-medieval fields — was recognised by his membership of the Royal Irish Academy. Both at Belfast and through his British Academy fellowship and University of Bradford visiting professorship, he was instrumental in fostering science-based archaeology in Britain.

Laterly his research focused increasingly on the early Celtic art of the British Isles. His work in this area, to be fully revealed only in a volume yet to be published, promises to provide his principal literary legacy.

Of Cornish extraction, Edward Martyn Jope was educated at Whitgift School, Croydon, and Kingswood School, Bath. As an open scholar at Oriel College, Oxford, he read chemistry while, like so many others before and since, he honed his archaeology as secretary and president of the University Archaeological Society. On graduation he joined the staff of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (Wales). At this time his own West Country interests led him, with R. I. Threlfall, to excavate a medieval settlement at Bext near North Tawton, Devon, and to produce one of the first recorded plans of a medieval peasant house in England.

The year 1940 saw Jope back as a biochemist working at the London Hospital with Nuffield Foundation support on haemoglobins in human blood. Later the Medical Research Council supported his research on the application of spectro-chemical methods and spectromicroscopy to biological problems. Archaeology too tempted, however, and under the initiative of the redoubtable geographer Estyn Evans, he was recruited to a new lectureship in archaeology



at the Queen's University of Belfast.

For the next three decades Jope and his wife Margaret, a biochemist, worked in Belfast during term-time and lived in Oxford during the vacations, developing a parallel research career in each place. The 1950s saw a frenzy of activity in both countries. At Queen's, undergraduate courses were established in both the arts and science faculties. In the Ministry of Finance the new Archaeological Survey of Northern Ireland was established under Jope's day-to-day direction and its distinguished staff, his old friends Dudley Waterman and Pat Collins, duly recruited.

A golden age of excavation and research in Northern Ireland ensued, Jope himself tuning his skill at building analysis and highly perceptive excavation to structures and sites all over the Province. By 1966, when *An Archaeological Survey of County Down* was published, with Jope's authoritative general sections, the archaeology of the Province had been catapulted to modern standards.

At Oxford in the vacations Jope

seized similar opportunities for illuminating fieldwork at key sites such as Ascot Doily Castle, Duddington Castle, the medieval pottery kilns at Brill, and at sites in Oxford including clinical trenches in Oxford Castle that provided crucial dating for early medieval pottery. Such excavations offered an opportunity for studies of the medieval pottery of the Oxford region and of the South West which formed the basis for all subsequent work.

As the Queen's department grew in strength and reputation, Jope was able to attract to it research funding to develop archaeological science. The Nuffield Quaternary Research Unit took a team approach to the problems of archaeology, bringing together botanists, a soil scientist, and the osteoarchaeological skills of Jope's wife Margaret — in the 1950s, an idea well before its time.

Jope's record as an entrepreneur in the development of archaeological science and his personal background as a biochemist made him a natural link between the British Academy and the Royal Society, from which there

emerged a number of joint meetings. He led the academy's campaign to obtain separate government funding for archaeological science, and from 1977 he served on the first science-based archaeology committee. His advice also benefited the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (Wales), where he was a commissioner for 20 years; the Ancient Monuments Board for England; and the Northern Ireland Ancient Monuments Advisory Council.

A puckish sense of humour and a self-effacing manner, coupled with kindness and concern for friends and colleagues, did much to protect Jope from the frustrations he set up in others by his intensely private lifestyle, ruthless disregard for bureaucracy and fierce protection of his own time. Students who did manage to snatch ten minutes of his attention, however, were often surprised by the depth of his understanding of their problems and frequently received advice and insights that stayed with them a lifetime.

Jope is survived by his wife Margaret. They had no children.

JACK POPPLEWELL

Jack Popplewell, composer and playwright, died on November 16 aged 87. He was born on March 22, 1909.

IN THE weeks before his death Jack Popplewell was working with an American collaborator to turn *Busbody*, his greatest stage success, into a musical. The proposition had bemused him at first. Written in 1964 for Irene Handl, who in it played an office cleaner who finds a corpse that keeps reappearing in different places, his comedy-thriller had run for two years in London, and four years in Paris. It had gone on to play in more than thirty other countries, but he had never supposed it to be material for a musical.

"Well, why not?" he finally said, agreeing to the idea.



Although he has not lived to see the result, he was able to appreciate how neatly the two strands of his creative life, theatre and songwriting, had come together.

Songs brought him his first success, although not until he had spent several years as a farmer in his native Yorkshire, trying to write novels in his spare time. He was born in Leeds, the only child of Walter and Beatrice Popplewell. His father was to become president of the Rugby League and take the first British team to Australia in the 1930s. Even at school, in Kirkham, Jack was writing lyrics and music, but nothing came of this until he was 30 when a friend, without his knowledge, submitted his song *If I Should Fall In Love Again* to a competition. Not only did it win, but the song was recorded by Gracie

Fields, at that time the most popular of British singers, and became a great hit in the early 1940s.

Over the years this was followed by something like

seventy others: Bing Crosby

recorded *My Girl's an Irish Girl; Really and Truly* was sung by Vera Lynn and others were recorded by Anne Shelton, Geraldo, Ambrose and even Gigi.

After the success of his first play, *Blind Alley*, at the long-vanished Q Theatre in 1953, it was to say that he had not previously tried his hand at writing for the stage because he had lacked the confidence that he could make a play work technically. The 15 he subsequently wrote, eight of them performed in the West End, would probably look distinctly old-fashioned today, and the comedy-thriller that was his specialty is a vanished genre — even if it is difficult to attend a performance of *The Mousetrap* without laughing. But his plays were able to attract excellent actors, and he en-

joyed a run of successes that lasted until *Busbody*.

In 1955 Andrew Cruckshank appeared, inevitably as a wise police inspector, in *Dead on Nine*, along with Hy Hazell and Griffith Jones. It was a play in which a husband employs someone to murder his wife, a premise that owed something to *Dial M for Murder*, though the twists in the second act took a different turn. In *Dear Delinquent* (1957) David Tomlinson played a nervous bachelor, who discovers that the charming girl (Anna Massey) wandering around in his flat is an Irish burglar.

Within a year Popplewell's technically most adventurous play, *A Day in the Life of...* had opened at the Savoy, with the bowler-hatted Naunton Wayne guiding the audience through scenes that showed a man will make on the different people he meets. Significantly, the career Popplewell chose for the play's hero (Alfred Marks) was that of a publisher of popular songs.

These plays were variously described as light, amusing, easy entertainment, ingeniously plotted and sprinkled with clever lines. But in the course of the 1960s the fashion moved away from such plays, and when Popplewell revived the Irene Handl characters for a sequel to *Busbody* the result, *Dead Easy* (1973), was not a success.

In private life a man of dry wit who shunned publicity, Jack Popplewell spent his last years in a village outside Bath with his wife Betty. Married in 1941, they were together for 35 years until her death in August. They are survived by their two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

PRIMAN flats for long or short let on sites not taken up, but still available. Tel: 0121 477 3407. E-mail: PRIMAN 7071 340771

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1996-97

GIROBANK plc (TRANSFER)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by Girobank plc for an Act under the above name or short title for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for the vesting in Alliance and Leicester plc ("ALF") of the undertakings of Girobank plc ("Girobank"), and Alliance & Leicester Personal Finance Limited ("ALPFL"), for such vesting to take place on a date or dates to be determined and fixed by the directors of ALF. In relation to all powers and abilities of, or held by, Girobank and ALPFL, the vesting of such powers and abilities in ALF will be subject to the following restrictions: staff employment and pension rights; the saving of contracts, statutory provisions and other documents; powers, authorities, negotiable instruments, bailment, securities and proceedings; and the provisions of the Bankers' Books Evidence Act 1875; the confirmation of accounts and of interests in land; and all other provisions supplementary to or consequential upon the terms of the application for the vesting of the intended purposes aforementioned, including the application of the intended purposes to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

On Friday 14th December 1996 a copy of the Bill for the intended Act may be inspected and copies obtained at the offices of ALF at the head office of Girobank plc at 49 Park Lane, London; at the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Scottish Administration Centre, Broughton Street, Edinburgh; at the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Regional Office, 43 Royal Avenue, Belfast; and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated 26th November 1996

JULIAN HEPPELWHITE,

Girobank plc,

19 Park Lane,

London W1Y 4GQ.

Parliamentary Agents.

FLATSHARE

SW10 1BD

flat available for

long or short let.

For details call 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

E-mail: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or write: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 0171 220 2256

or email: 0171 220 2256

or fax: 0171 220 2256

or call: 0171 220 2256

or visit: 017

